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Somerset Record Society.

VOL. XXIII.

QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS

FOR THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

VOL. I.

JAMES I.

1607-1625.

EDITED BY

THE REV. E. H. BATES, M.A.

PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

1907.

Somerset Record Society.

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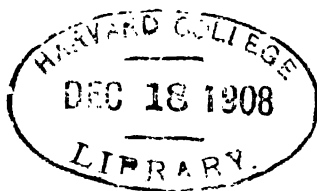
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OWING to a prolonged absence from home at the beginning of the year, with a consequent burden of arrears, the issue of this volume has been much delayed. I should like to take shelter under the quaint excuse of Madox in his introduction to the *Firma Burgi*, that "Whoso desireth to discourse in a proper manner concerning corporated towns and communities must take in a great variety of matter, and should be allowed a great deal of time and preparation"; but it soon appeared that such a preliminary discourse would absorb too much space and time; and the Introduction touches only a tithe of the interesting subjects which will be found in the body of the work.

During the preparation of the Introduction, I have been continually applying to the work on English Local Government, pt. i, the Parish and the County, by S. and B. Webb; and from the second section of their work the quotation above has been derived. The records of the reign of Charles I. will be printed in the following volume, now in the press. For 1909 there will be issued a volume containing the two cartularies of the families of Hill and Beauchamp now in the Public Record Office, another cartulary of the latter family, which was unearthed with that relating to Muchelney Abbey, printed in vol. xiv, and the recently discovered cartulary of Mynchin Buckland. This

has been bequeathed by the late Mr. Brooking Rowe to the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, in the hope that its contents might be printed by the Record Society at an early date.

For the first time for ten years the list of subscribers shows a small increase. The finances are in a fairly satisfactory condition, as there is at present a small balance in hand after discharging all liabilities.

E. H. BATES.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY.

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" 1906 (97)	... 101 17 0	J. R. H. Weaver, index to Vol. XXI	... 25 0 0
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		Total	£172 11 9
		Balance in hand, 31st December, 1906...	... 114 6 0
		Total	£286 17 9

24th January, 1907.
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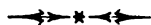
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Introduction.

THE contents of this volume are the record of the work of the Court of Quarter Sessions in the period 1608-1625, so far as they relate to the administrative duties, and not to the judicial functions of the Justices of the Peace. It must be supposed that they knew rightly what matters should be the subject of an order and what of a trial; but an examination of the business done will show that an "order" might often include, or confirm, a sentence of considerable severity.

By the reign of James I., the Court of Quarter Sessions was practically the centre of governance in the county, as the justice was the representative of law and order. The Sheriff and the County Court, as the keeper of the peace and the lawful court of the freemen of the shire, had been losing ground for some time before the police statute of Winchester in 1285 and that of Trailbaston in 1305 showed that the old English system of keeping the peace and administering justice required to be strengthened.

The frequent rebellions and final collapse of government at the close of the reign of Edward II. produced such a state of lawlessness that after the accession of Edward III. fresh men and measures were found necessary. A steady succession of statutes appointed conservators of the peace in every county (1 Edw. III., c. 16); gave them authority to commit evil-doers to gaol to await trial (4 Edw. III., c. 2); conferred on them power, in conjunction with others learned in the law, to hear and determine felonies, trespasses, and other offences against the peace (18 Edw. III., st. 2, c. ii.). Additional duties were imposed, and finally by two statutes passed in 1360 and 1362 as Justices of the Peace they were empowered to take sureties

c

for the good behaviour, and to hold their sessions four times in the year. The times of these meetings were fixed by statute of 2 Hen. V., st. 1, c. iv. To quote the words of Reeves, *Hist. of Engl. Law*, 1869, vol. ii, p. 332. The keepers of the peace were become justices presiding over a court, where many matters of considerable importance to the order and quiet of society were cognizable, besides the important jurisdiction over felonies and trespasses. The consideration of these magistrates was greatly heightened by the accession of business that was thrown upon them by later Acts of Parliament, which have gradually entrusted them with matters of very material concern to the property and liberty of the subject.

QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS.

A shire or county, unlike the majority of boroughs, has no muniments of title, no charters of enfranchisement from a descendant of the Conqueror or of a follower, to be the foundation of a life of civic activity; for, as the Anglo-Saxon labourer said to the Norman squire, *we* were here when *you* came. The accounts of the sheriff were sent up to the Treasury and embodied in the Pipe Rolls; the writs sent down for execution were duly returned sewed to the parchment which contained the verdict of the sworn inquisition. At the end of his term of office each sheriff would be likely to retain any documents which might bear upon the business transacted, until it was thought safe to destroy them.

With the establishment of the Court of Quarter Sessions in 1362 (36 Edw. III., st. 1, c. 12) documents of different sorts began to increase, and Lambard notes that in 1390, Stephen Betenam was the first for Kent to whom the credit of the records of the peace was thereby committed: which officer is now sithence called the *Custos Rotulorum*.¹ But owing probably to the absence of a fixed abode for the custos, or his deputy the clerk of the peace, there are practically no records of the Quarter Sessions of an earlier date than the middle of the

¹ *Irenarcha*, 1610, bk. 1, c. 9.

sixteenth century.¹ Another cause was specified in the Act of 37 Hen. VIII., c. 1, that since sundry persons (no lesse unworthy to occupy the office of *custos rotulorum*, than greedy to have the place) did obtain grants of the same by letters patent for term of their lives; by means whereof so many evils did shortly ensue, both to the hinderance of justice, and to the disherison of the King's subjects, greater care should be taken in the appointment for the future, principally by limiting the tenure of the office to the King's pleasure. As in practice the clerk of the peace had the custody of the records, the Act did little or nothing towards securing their better preservation; and Lambard laments that owing to this arrangement "it falleth out very often, that after the death of the clerk, these records are hardly recovered, and that piecemeale, from his widow, servants, or executors, who at their pleasure may embesel, misuse, or conceale what they will; which how farre it may reach to the losse of his Majesty, and to the hurt of his subjects, I leave to be debated and decided in the court of their own consciences that take this charge upon them."² And again in the same chapter; "Yet now the inconvenience being found, and the records themselves being growne to greater bulk, the same should be lodged in some special and proper room under safe custody, and not without an inventory."

All these calamities had befallen the records in the County, for only a few documents survive of an earlier date than 1607; and the justices determined to act upon the very lines suggested by Lambard. The matter was first mooted at the Wells Sessions 1616-7, and exactly two years later two orders record that through the great care and charge of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace a strong and convenient room adjoining to the Cathedral Church of Wells had been obtained from the Dean and Chapter, and fitted up for the purpose of a record room. And further that two justices should be annually appointed at the Wells Sessions to view the said room whether the records are well disposed of in the same (pp. 247-8).

Here under the shadow of the Cathedral the records

¹ *Committee on Local Records, Report, 1902*, App. III, answers to sch. No. 1. For account of some early rolls in P.R.O., see *English Hist. Review*, xxi, p. 517.

² *Irenarcha* (1610 edit.) bk. iv, c. 3.

remained and multiplied, undisturbed by either the Rebellion or Monmouth's invasion. In 1800, in answer to a letter from a Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to enquire into the state of public records, the Deputy Clerk of the Peace for Somerset made a return: "That the records are kept at Wells in a room newly fitted. There is no catalogue, nor could it be made under a year. The office of the Clerk of the Peace has been at Chard for more than thirty years under three several gentlemen." To a further enquiry of the same nature in 1837, the Clerk of the Peace made no return.

In 1858 the Shire Hall was built at Taunton, and the County Records were removed from Wells and placed in two large rooms in the basement of the building, where they were arranged in presses and on shelves. It can be said that this accommodation was probably far superior to that provided for most local records, or even for the national records, previous to the building of the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane about the middle of the century. The records are secure from thieves and damp; and there is ample room for future accumulations without over-crowding. On the other hand the rooms are naturally dark and cold, and therefore very unsuitable for prolonged examination and study of their contents.

In the spring of 1903 some members of the Council of the Somerset Record Society made an examination of the records, and a report was drawn up and forwarded to the Clerk of the Peace and of the County Council. In accordance with the suggestions made in the report, the County Council made a grant, by means of which the late Mr. Watson, formerly on the staff of the P.R.O., spent the summer of 1904 in cleaning, arranging, and ticketing the contents of the two rooms; and this work was carried out in a very complete and satisfactory manner. Some of the series of documents were found to extend back to a date far earlier than had hitherto been supposed; and now the records may be said to be accessible to persons desiring to make researches.

It was, however, considered that the contents of some of the records, which the experience of other counties had shown to be of considerable value in local government and history, should be printed, and so made generally available. In 1905 the

County Council made a grant to the Somerset Record Society to enable them to include a collection of Quarter Sessions Records among their volumes. About half the grant was expended in rebinding the three oldest Minute Books (1613-1620 ; 1621-1627 ; 1628-1638), which were in a very dilapidated condition ; and in binding the contents of the rolls of Indictments and Sessions Rolls from the earliest date to the end of the reign of James I. in books, about fifty of each class.

Owing to this vast quantity of material it was evident that to print a reference, however short, to each item would require not one but a series of volumes, even for the reign of a single monarch. The criminal business, though necessary and interesting to the student of manners and morals, does not affect the general history of the county. The administrative orders mark many a stage in the evolution of institutions and county governance which are yet of service : roads, bridges, and gaols are still in active use. The efforts of the Bench to relieve poverty in all its varied forms, to provide decent housing accommodation, and to regulate the drink traffic, are well worthy the attention of social reformers at the present day. By confining the contents of the volume to these Orders, a complete view of this portion of the work of the Quarter Session for the reign of James I. has been made available.

Of each of the different classes of records dealt with, or referred to in the following pages, a more particular account will be useful.

Minute Book I is a stout folio of 430 leaves, containing the doings at Quarter Session from Taunton Sess. 1613 to Bridgwater (Michaelmas) 1620, but this end is very defective. The front portion of the book has perished, but it is not probable that it could ever have been much larger. Luckily a rough minute book has also survived, and from it some of the orders missing have been supplied. Minute Book II is complete at the beginning, Wells (Epiphany) Sess. 1620-1, but is defective after the Ilchester (Easter) Session of 1627, so that there is no record of the Taunton and Bridgwater Sessions in that year. Minute Book III begins with Wells Sess. 1627-8, and extends to the Bridgwater Sess. 1638. The next volume now in existence covers the period 1646-56 ; after which date

there is a further gap to 1666, whence there is a continuous series to 1803.

The business recorded in these volumes is based on three classes of documents: Recognizances, Indictments, and Sessions Rolls, which form three long and continuous series from 1607 with a few fragments of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

To take a recognizance, when a person is bound over to appear at the Sessions to answer any matter he may be charged with, was at this date the most usual act a justice had to do. If a person was brought up, and the charge was one which the justices considered to require further investigation, it had to go to Quarter Sessions. Up to 1625 it seems to have been the exception to send a person to prison pending his trial; and his appearance was secured by an elaborate series of recognizances, in which the prosecutor, the prisoner and the witnesses were sometimes sureties for each other.¹ It is no exaggeration to say that there are thousands of these documents fastened up in small rolls with the year marked thereon. By means of the long lists of recognizances taken, discharged, and forfeited, entered in the minute books at each Sessions, it is possible to obtain a reference to the bundle containing the documents; and more than this could not be done at present.

The indictments, abominably written on parchment, down to the end of the reign of James I. have been bound in books. They deal with a class of business not touched on in this volume.

The Sessions Rolls might equally well be classed as miscellaneous, for they contain every other kind of document which the Clerk of the Peace considered worthy of preservation. Here will be found examinations taken by the justices, petitions on every variety of business, letters from all sorts and conditions of people—anything that might form the basis of an order. These rolls have also been bound up in volumes, one or two to each roll. As the object of this volume is to exhibit the working of the Quarter Session in administrative business, rather than the working of the human mind in consulting the advantage of its owner, I have been obliged to content myself with giving after each order a reference to the document

¹ *Worcester County Records*, I, intro., by J. W. Willis Bund.

on which it was based (whenever such could be found); and with utilizing a few striking documents and letters in this Introduction. But in order to present as much material as possible, the contents of the Rolls, 1-16, covering the period 1607-1613, have been abstracted by Mr. A. J. Monday of Taunton, and from this material I have taken everything that might possibly have produced an order from the Court of Quarter Session. Mr. Monday's task was no easy one, for, although the paper and ink of nearly all the documents are singularly well preserved, the hand-writing and spelling are peculiar, and the style very verbose, requiring great care in condensation.

The County records include many other classes of documents, among which may be mentioned the copies of enrolled deeds extending from 1537 to the beginning of the nineteenth century. A calendar of those prepared by Mr. Monday will appear in the *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* this year. The other classes begin at a later date.

COMMISSION OF THE PEACE.

Before giving any account of the business, it is necessary to consider the composition of the Bench at this period. There are numerous Commissions dating from 1612. One issued 25th November, 1613, contains the names of the Lord Chancellor, Keeper of the Privy Seal, High Admiral, Earl of Bath, Earl of Hertford, Bishop of Bath and Wells (James Montague), Lord Morley, Lord Monteagle, Sir Edward Phelipps, Master of the Rolls, Laurence Tanfield, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Augustine Nicholls, Justice of the King's Bench, Sir George Snigge, Baron of the Exchequer; and the following residents in the County: Knights, *George Speke of Whitelackington,¹ John Mallett of Enmore, Will. Courney of Combe Sydenham, in right of his wife, *Francis Popham of Wellington, *Maurice Berkeley of Bruton, *Hugh Smith of Long Ashton, *Nicholas Halswell of Halswell in Goathurst, *Edward Gorges of Wraxall, *Thomas Bridges of Keynsham, *Robert Phelipps of Montacute, *James Ley of Beckington,

¹ The residences are added.

*Edward Hext of Low Ham, John Windham of Orchard Windham; *Francis James, LL.D., of Barrow Gurney; Esquires, *John Pawlett of Hinton St. George, *John Francis of Combe Florey, *Robert Hopton of Witham, *Henry Walrond of Isle Brewers, *Samuel Norton of Abbots Leigh, *Edward Rogers of Cannington, George Luttrell of Dunster, *Richard Warre of Hestercombe, *Humphry Windham of Wiveliscombe, Humphry Sidenham of Combe in Dulverton, *Thomas Hughes of Wells, *John May of Hinton Charterhouse, *John Trevillian of Nettlecombe, *Alexander Ewens of North Cadbury, John Farwell of Holbrook near Wincanton, Christopher Preston of Cricket St. Thomas, Francis Baber of Chew Magna, James Bisse of Batcombe, Nathanael Styll of Hutton, William Swanton of Wincanton, *John Symes of Poundisford, Thomas Symcocks of Butleigh, *Thomas Warre of West Monkton, James Kirton of Castle Cary, Thomas Southworth of Wells, *Joseph Rattle of Langford in Churchill, Robert Cuffe of Creech St. Michael.

The asterisk denotes the *quorum*, and it is found wanting before several names where one might have expected to see it. This particular commission omits several gentlemen of good position in the county who are found executing the office of a magistrate soon after; and the absence of others may be due to the fact that they were unable to take the oath of allegiance.

Omitting the official justices, ten in number, the commission contains the names of forty-three justices, who were fairly evenly distributed over the county. Taking the present parliamentary divisions: there were five in each of the northern, eastern and Frome divisions, and seven in the Wells, Wellington, southern, and Bridgwater divisions.

The following table shows the attendance at Quarter Sessions:—

	1614	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24	'25
Wells	16	19	16	15	22	23	24	12	16	19	17	25
Ilchester	9	15	10	13	9	15	—	15	16	10	13	—
Taunton	14	19	13	14	15	12	22	17	15	11	11	—
Bridgwater	15	13	13	15	18	19	—	21	12	15	15	—
Average	13	16	13	14	16	17	—	16	15	14	14	—

So about one-third of the justices attended the Sessions. That held at Ilchester seems to have been decidedly unpopular. Even though the winter floods had subsided, the town must have been distinctly unhealthy, and the accommodation obtainable inferior to that in the other towns. Only a few, and they resident within the quadrilateral, were present at every Sessions. The majority contented themselves with attending the two held nearest their homes, and forwarded bundles of recognizances, depositions, and examinations to the Clerk of the Peace at other times. Six of the justices named in the commission never attended, but of these Sir George Speke and Sir Edward Gorges were very active in their own districts.

It will be noticed that for the seven years ending with 1620 the average attendance gradually rises, and then as gradually descends to the end of the reign of James I. This may be connected with the fact that in the same periods the average number of new names at the Quarter Sessions is for the first period five, and for the second three. Of the twenty-five present in 1614, only five appeared at Wells in 1625. One cannot help suspecting that the labour and troubles attending the execution of the office led to the early retirement of the older justices. Some of their monuments survived long enough to be enrolled in the pages of Collinson; but it is only seldom that the magistracy is mentioned thereon. In the church of Bishops Hull there is a monument to "Georgio Farewel armigero at Irenarchæ: justitiæ et pacis publicæ procuratori et conservatori; summo pauperum patrono."¹ Another to the memory of John Symes of Poundisford records that he was "greatly renowned for wisdom, justice, integrity, and sobriety, which talents he did not hide in a napkin, but religiously exercised in the whole conduct of his life, especially in the government of the county, wherein he bore all the honourable offices incident to a country gentleman as knight of the shire, high sheriff, deputy lieutenant for many years, and justice of the peace for forty years and upwards."²

The justices were drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of the country gentlemen, which were being constantly recruited from the successful merchants of the towns. The latter were

¹ Collinson, III, 255.

² *Historical Notes on South Somerset*, by J. Batten, F.S.A., p. 10.

naturally sticklers for equality, and an unfortunate expression in the wording of an order (*Ilchester Sessions* 1615, No. 22, p. 141) brought this fiery letter from Mr. Barnabas Lewis, J.P., to the Clerk of the Peace.

"Mr. Brown, I have received two orders from you, the one for cottagers wherein you have mistaken to say the plaintiffs were not present for they were at the Sessions to prove it (if the cottagers themselves would not have confessed it, as they did to us before or would have done it then), but let that remain as it is. But for Pearce, I am not well used, viz., to have a reference to Sir Thos. Bridges, Mr. Popham, Mr. Bisse jointly, and I myself to join if I will; I will justify that the order was for reference for Pearce as you made for the cottagers, and not to Mr. Popham and Mr. Bisse, but let them remain, I will not except any of the shire (but I tell you your fault). Also the manner how you use my name, I do not allow to join if I will, but to be nominated as is due (as the other are). I doubt partiality in this business. I must tell you that I have been deeply abused by him, and have complained and will prove it without exception, or else I will not sit on the Bench again, for I will never be braved or opposed against by an audacious ale-house keeper and shameless as he is. Also he forfeited his recognizances for his non-appearance and therefore look you to certify it. And I pray you make the order as it ought to be to any two of us, or else you will wrong the Court and yourself. Your loving friend if you wrong me not. Barn. Lewes, Wincanton, first of June, 1615."

Besides the attendances at the Quarter Sessions, and frequent meetings for the consideration and decision of multifarious matters thence referred to them, the justices were also grouped together within defined areas which are generally referred to as their divisions or limits. These may perhaps be considered as the germ of the modern Petty Sessions. But the Petty Sessions mentioned in this volume had little in common with the present court of Summary Jurisdiction, but were held for administrative purposes only, among which the regulation of public houses was an important part. These limits were established by orders from the Privy Council drawn up at Greenwich 23rd June, 1605. The copy sent to Somersetshire has disappeared, but from that

printed in *Quarter Sessions, Elizabeth to Anne*, by A. H. A. Hamilton, p. 67, it appears that it included directions to the Clerk of the Peace to present to the Judges of Assizes a list of all the justices who were either absent from the Quarter Sessions, or only attended for a portion of the business. That convenient and apt divisions were to be made in every county, and fit justices be assigned to have the special charge and care of every such division, which were to be so made as none be driven to travel above seven or eight miles. That the Justices should hold a meeting in each division about the midtime between each Quarter Sessions, to see the due execution of the various statutes dealing with labourers, alehouses and tipplers, assize of bread and drink, rogues and vagabonds, setting the poor on work and to bind their children apprentices especially to husbandry and housewifery, artificers, and all other things within their several divisions, appertaining to their office to deal as Justices of the Peace. And also several other orders relating to the "whole duty" of a magistrate.¹

In addition to all this mass of business a justice was often directed or desired to exercise his authority and influence singly. When all other efforts to get Richard Warren out of the almshouse at Langport had failed, Mr. Jennings was ordered to put the said Warren with his wife and children forth and send them with a copy of the order to Lyng; but after the lapse of a whole year Warren was still in the almshouse. The same justice was also desired at the Bridgwater Sessions, 1624, to cause the constables and officers of South Petherton to suppress the growing disorders in that town. Paternal, not to say grandmotherly regulations have never found favour with the English, and efforts to get notorious tipplers and evildoers reformed by waiting upon neighbouring justices were not very successful, to judge by the experience of Sir John Wyndham. A yet unreformed drunkard

¹ Even these duties were less than might be exacted from a county gentleman two centuries earlier; when Robert de Echyngham, the king's servant, obtained an exemption for life on account of his old age and debility, from being put on assizes, juries, attaints, inquisitions or other recognitions, and from being made mayor, sheriff, escheator, coroner, verderer, steward, constable, justice of the peace, or of labourers, collector, taxer, assessor, surveyor, or controller of tenths, fifteenths or other subsidies, arrayer, leader or trier of men-at-arms, hobelers or archers, or other bailiff, officer or minister of the king, against his will. Pat. Rolls, 5 Hen. IV., ii, m. 25.

waited upon his mentor with a quarterstaff, and not finding him at home, knocked down two waiting men, and caused much disturbance and damage before he was ejected from Orchard Wyndham.

The efforts of the justices "to execute justice and maintain truth" will be sufficiently illustrated by the account of their labours in this volume. In Sir Thomas Smith's *Discourse on the Commonwealth of England*, first published in 1583, they are described as such whom the Prince shall think meet, and in whom for wisdom and discretion he putteth his trust, inhabitants within the county. There was never in any commonwealth devised a more wise, a more dulce and gentle nor a more certain way to rule the people, whereby they are kept always as it were in a bridle of good order, and sooner looked unto that they should not offend, than punished when they have offended. [Bk. II, chap. 19.] Observers both of home and of foreign origin have noted with surprise that men might be trusted to execute judicial powers without becoming tyrants, and to carry out administrative duties without filling their pockets.

BUSINESS AT SESSIONS.

The number of orders made varied remarkably from year to year. In 1614 there were 66 orders, 109 in 1615, 133 in 1616, 106 in 1617, 100 in 1618, 92 in 1619, 79 in 1620, 95 in 1621, 69 in 1622, 58 in 1623, and 56 in 1624. Wells was by far the busiest Session, and four days were often found necessary to dispose of the criminal and civil accumulated business. Of the orders entered in the minute books some, as the bastardy orders, are simply copied as received from the justices. Others embody the decision of the court in the case of an appeal from aggrieved parties, and these are the most numerous. The rest were made by the court with regard to business originating at the Session.

There was no chairman appointed to that post, and the list of justices present is always drawn up with a strict regard to the rules of precedency. At the Wells Session the Bishop of the Diocese was often present with several cathedral dignities. The Lord Lieutenant did not put in an appearance during this

period. Henry Herbert, second Earl of Pembroke, held this post from 1585 to his death in 1601, when he was succeeded by Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, 1602-1621. On his death William Herbert, third Earl of Pembroke, was appointed, who died in 1630. He was succeeded by his younger brother Philip, fourth Earl of Pembroke and Earl of Montgomery. He was out of favour with the King on account of his opposition to the Scotch expedition in 1639, and William Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, was appointed Lord Lieutenant 26th March, 1639.¹

The Custos Rotulorum in the commission of the peace in 1614 was Sir Robert Phelipps of Montacute. In 1619 Sir James Ley, afterwards Earl of Marlborough, held this office. He had some antiquarian interests, and was an early member of the Elizabethan Society of Antiquarians.² It was perhaps owing to these interests that the Record Room was established at Wells (p. 247).

The office of Clerk of the Peace was, during part of this period certainly, held jointly. Mr. Edward White was clerk in 1608-9 (p. 43), and Mr. John Bibbons in the same year (Sess. Rolls, VII, No. 26). John Saward was deputy clerk in 1607 (p. 5). In 1612-3 Mr. Edward White (also Whyke) and Mr. Christopher Brown were clerks of the peace together, and this arrangement continued during the period under review, but towards the end Brown seems to have been the principal partner, and to have associated with him Thomas Arundel (Sess. Rolls, 43, ii, 29).

From among their number the justices appointed annually a treasurer for the maimed soldiers, and the treasurers for the hospital money for the easter and west divisions of the county. A committee of two or three justices was selected to examine the estreats of the County Court book kept by the sheriff, and another committee to answer any letters or other official documents sent down from the Lords of the Council. No records committee, in spite of the wording of the order (p. 247), seems to have been appointed. All other appointments were made as occasion required.

¹ Doyle, *Official Baronage*.

² *Dict. Nat. Biography*, lxxiii, 206.

RELIEF OF THE POOR.

This portion of their labours concerned the oversight of the working of the various Acts for the relief of the poor. A historical sketch of the earlier statutes, beginning with that of 12 Richard II. c. 7 (1388) down to that of 39 and 40 Elizabeth, c. 1, which was the foundation of the old Poor Law, was given in the report of the Poor Law Commissioners of 1834, pp. 6-13. As the result of this Act was, in the words of the Commissioners, "destructive to the morals of the most numerous class, and to the welfare of all," it is interesting to watch the efforts of the justices to make the law work fairly.

The largest number of appeals had reference to the great question of settlement, if the parties claiming relief really belonged to the parish wherein they had a habitation. "It has been estimated that the few pages which contain the Pauper Settlement Laws have been the main employment of the Quarter Sessions since the Revolution, at an expense of litigation estimated at ten millions." (Quoted in Webb, *English Local Government, Parish and County*, p. 420 n.) Twice the Court tried to lay down a general principle in order to make their decisions more uniform. At the Ilchester Session of 1615 it was ordered (No. 15) that persons having a legal settlement should not be ejected by their landlords to avoid fines laid upon them in the manor courts, but be allowed to remain, "that so by their labours and industries they may honestly get their livings to the better disburdening of all parishes to be at any charge with them." At the Bridgwater Sessions of 1616 it was the opinion of the Court that a year's settlement by a man in a parish should give his widow and children a right of settlement. Also that after a year's settlement, either as a covenant servant or otherwise, the parish should support a man maimed there, and not send him to the place of his birth. Again, at the Ilchester Sessions of 1623, it was ordered as there was diversity of opinion among the justices touching the settling or removing of people likely to be chargeable, and "that the determining of this particular doth much impart the good order and government of the county," that Sir Robert Phelipps and Hugh Pyne, Esq.,

should obtain the opinion of the Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Justice Hutton, "by which means the present difference may be concluded, and their direction may serve for a rule of our future proceedings."¹ There are several instances of unfortunate paupers being sent from pillar to post for lengthened periods, the widow Welchman with six children being alternately sent to Edington and Badgworth during the space of two years, 1615-6. The overseers of Brislington had considerable trouble with John Merryweather, who coming from Bedminster rented a house there, and in spite of an order to leave within twenty days, and a further complaint at a Petty Sessions, stayed for two years, when Mr. Justice Hutton declared he could not be turned out. But after a fresh hearing of the case at Ilchester, 1624, Merryweather was ordered back to Bedminster, the Bench "having power as we take it according to the law upon hearing to settle business of this quality."

The inhabitants of a parish sometimes took the law into their own hands. Mary Wootton, of Curland, complained at the Bridgwater Sessions, 1623, that after more than one year's residence there the parishioners fearing that owing to her husband's age and sickness they would become chargeable, put them forth of their house, and suffered them "in most unchristianlike manner to dwell under a hedge."

One would have expected a large number of appeals from would-be paupers who could not obtain relief in their own parishes, but they are singularly few. A typical Bumble appears in Thomas Cooper, the collector of the poor for Lottisham Green, who not only withheld relief from certain poor, but also "threateneth and raileth upon them with very unchristianlike speeches." (*Ilchester Quarter Sessions*, 1617, No. 1.)

Although every parish was expected to provide for its own poor, this charge was sometimes found to be too burdensome. In 1597 an application was made to the Bench to allow eight poor people to beg beyond the confines of Dunster, because there was a greater charge of poor persons than they were able to relieve (p. 1). For want of a licence to beg, William Porter

¹ Michael Dalton, on p. 162 of his *County Justice* (1705), prints a list of 38 queries on this subject, with the resolutions of the Judges of Assize, 1633.

of Edington, trying to supplement his weekly allowance of two pence by begging at Shapwick, was grievously whipped by the constable there, and sent to Chedseye (p. 135). The Bench sometimes made an order for neighbouring parishes to contribute. Somerton was so helped by four parishes in 1609 to their great discontent (pp. 33, 163, 175, 190, 195, 210). Taunton St. James was to be helped by the Hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane (pp. 29, 317). Saltford and Stanton Drew found their own poor rate so much increased that they petitioned to be relieved of any payment for the benefit of the poor of Pensford (pp. 183, 200).

APPRENTICES, BASTARDS, LUNATICS.

These three classes provided much work for the Bench. The indentures of apprentices were cancelled for many reasons. The apprentice was ill-treated, ill-fed, and not taught his trade, but encouraged in "thievery"; not kept under discipline, but allowed to wander about the country; or his master had failed in business and fled out of the country. Richard Avery of Enmore complained in 1607 that his daughter had been so ill-treated by her mistress that she lost the use of her feet, and was then sent back home in a barrow (p. 23). The master also sought to be relieved of his apprentice for idleness and other ill causes.

The authorities were perfectly aware of the danger of idle hands to the community. In 1621 the churchwardens and overseers of Mark complained that when, owing to the number of children who are very "idely" brought up so that the richer sort are likely to be overburdened with poor people, for the prevention of this evil they had apprenticed five children to as many masters, two of them denied to take such troublesome inmates (p. 300). Richard Frye of Street, a very poor man with a great charge of six small children, who are fit to be bound apprentice, yet they still remained on his hands, desired that they might be bound, according to the orders of the Judges of Assize (p. 283).

Orders for the keep of illegitimate children were reviewed

for confirmation or cancellation on the petition of the putative father or fathers or of the parishes saddled with foundlings. In this case there generally arose a triangular duel between the parishes where the child was found, born, and begotten. The magisterial orders include the punishment. The father was fined a weekly payment, generally to be made on Sunday in the parish church after service. The mother was to keep the child, and for a further punishment to be well whipped in the nearest market town as a deterrent to others. The father was generally excused any corporal punishment on the ground that he had already been censured in the Ecclesiastical Court, which may have included public penance. At Glastonbury both parents were to be whipped through the town to the sound of a drum, but here the offence had the aggravated features of having been committed on the Sabbath day after a dancing class (p. 211). Stephen Ruddle, a collier, was also ordered to be whipped after confession of paternity (p. 276).

Lunatics were consigned to the Houses of Correction, where their presence must have added a new horror to those noisome dens. But this only happened when they became dangerous, which state generally showed itself by threats to burn down their neighbours' houses. If sent to a House of Correction the parishioners might be charged with their maintenance, which is perhaps the real reason why the lunacy rate seems very low. In other cases a committee was appointed to take charge of the lunatic and his property. On the petition of John Maltravers that his brother Peter, a "weak mazed man," was so illtreated by his wife that his screams would rival those of the young lady in the rhyme, for they awakened all South Petherton, the care of Peter and of his money was transferred to his brother (p. 313; the petition contains details quite unprintable).

CHARITIES (ALMS- AND PEST-HOUSES).

The Court of Quarter Sessions wielded the powers of the Charity Commissioners, and on complaint settled the difficulties connected with the administration of charities, ancient and modern. The money, when handed over to overseers and churchwardens, had a tendency to disappear, or, like some

modern funds, to accumulate, instead of being distributed. The parishioners of Rimpton complained in 1619 that the overseers gave forth speeches that they would not allow anything out of the interest on Mr. Wootten's charity, so that the poor are not like to have the benefit, but the overseers will make a gain thereof contrary to the will (p. 249); and a similar complaint came from East Chinnock in 1608. Allowance must of course be made for the inveterate tendency of beneficiaries to complain that they are neglected in the ministration of a charity, but experience has long since proved that in the words of John Stow, "Women be forgetful, children be unkind, executors are covetous, and take what they can find." This last was the experience of Sutton Mallet, who were to have the benefit of ten pounds, subject to the liability of maintaining the donor for life, but could not obtain the principal from the executor of Baldwyn Mallet, gent., collector for the poor (p. 217). Taunton St. James had a fund for supplying faggotts to the poor, which had been mismanaged and lost (p. 84). After a Chancery enquiry into the illdoings of H. Quicke, who had destroyed the records of St. Margaret's Hospital near Taunton, the Bench appointed a fresh master to be under the supervision of Justices together with the churchwardens and overseers of West Monkton (p. 89). Unsuitable persons were denied entrance to an almshouse, or in case of bad behaviour turned out and sent to their own parish.

The pest-house at Minehead came before the Bench, because although eighteen Hundreds were ordered to contribute by precept from the Taunton Sessions 1611, as late as 1618 there was a sum of twenty pounds still owing to Francis Pearce, who had been appointed; to victual and provide for the infected people there (pp. 66, 238, 258).

Besides exercising supervision on local funds, the Bench raised and distributed the funds known as hospital money and the maimed soldiers' money.

The money collected for the first fund might be used for any charitable purpose, and many were the calls upon it. By an order made at the Wells Sessions 1613-14, it appears that there had been some slackness in dispensing the fund, so that there was not enough money in hand or forthcoming to satisfy

statutory demands. The principal calls came from people who had suffered loss by fire or flood, particularly from the great overflow of the sea in 1607, which is traditionally said to have reached to the church of St. Benignus in Glastonbury. Starving prisoners were also helped, and the out-of-work clothiers of Frome (p. 323). For neglect of the Treasurers of this fund to pay forty shillings due from the County to the Marshalsea, they were fined nine shillings for charges incurred (Wells Sess., 1615-16, No. 15).

The maimed soldiers' fund was more restricted in its scope. According apparently to the impression made on the Justices the soldier received a quarterly pension (which might be increased) or a lump sum down. The pension was during good behaviour; and one Clive had his pension taken from him on cause alleged by two Justices at the Taunton Sessions, 1620 (p. 275). At the Wells Sessions, 1616-17, an enquiry was ordered as to a rumour that John Seager had sold his pension allowed him as a maimed soldier, in which case he was to be disallowed of any help. At the next Sessions he was granted forty shillings in full discharge of any claim he might have upon the county. At the Bridgwater Sessions, 1619, R. Corbett was denied any pension for that the Justices could not find that he had in any way deserved the same; yet in respect of his poverty he was paid twenty shillings to bring him out of the county (p. 260). Thomas Power was allowed ten shillings in regard of some maime he hath received in the war as he allegeth, whereby he was disbarred from any other pension out of the county. The claims were occasionally fortified by a certificate from the late commander, or by a letter from the Lords of the Council that the King was much interested in the case. Captain Francis Kirton received a yearly pension of twenty pounds for his services in England, the Low Countries and elsewhere, after the Lords of the Council had commended his application. Apparently this officer continued his military career, as at a later Sessions a warrant was granted against John Underwood of Evercreech for his disobedience and tongue to Mr. Francis Kirton at the Muster (pp. 256, 266).

HOUSING THE POOR.

This perennial difficulty was sought to be overcome in two ways. The first was to help the homeless man to get a house for himself. The great stumbling block here was the statute of 31 Eliz., c. 7, which ordained that in the country no cottage should be built unless four acres of land were laid thereto. Time after time the Justices drove the proverbial coach and four through this impossible statute by granting leave to poor people to build houses without the land, so as they obtained consent of the lord of the manor and the parishioners, for their poverty made it impossible for the applicants to obtain the land. Leave once granted, the house was under the protection of the law. John Bynnye of Winsham who "openly opposeth himself and pulleth down the building" set up by Thomas Macye, was to answer for his contempt at the Sessions, if he molest him any more (p. 185). Sometimes the Court was rather hasty in giving leave, as the following letter of Sir John Wyndham, apparently addressed to the Clerk of the Peace, shows.

Sir, I ever found therecting of cotages to be a meane only for increase of povertie and harbouring disorders, and therefore (long sithence and before your first letter received) promised my tenant Arden, whom it most concerned, not to give way to Thomas Still, who without my consent or privitie, took on him to build on my land, which I hold in common with others, to the great prejudice of my said tenant, as he informeth me. Nevertheless perceiving your favour towards the fellow, I have dealt with Arden, and he hath undertaken before Midsummer next, to find out a plott within the waste of the manor of Chisselborough more allowable and convenient for all parties, where (upon his own charge) he will set up the wales of a house, as far forth as this now is, for the poor man. . . . Howbeit I cannot but conceive there is some wrong offered me, in ordering my land without my allowance and in troubling such, as in my behalfe, hindered Still's unlawful proceeding. And thus with my hartiest love and salutations, do leave farther and rest. Your assured loving friend, Jo. Wyndham. Orchard, 31 Marcii, 1619.

There are also complaints that cottages were erected without any leave asked or given (Chewton, 256 ; Yeovil, pp. 267, 331 ; Stoneaston, 280). The inhabitants of Downhead complained in 1617 that a collier had made his home in a wood for a whole year with his wife and child, and then lived with James West (p. 216). The court ordered him to be deported. On a complaint that Nicholas Warren had newly erected a cottage upon the forest side (Neroche), "which is suspected to be much prejudicial to his Majesty's game there by harbouring and receiving disorderly and idle fellows," he alleged that it was an ancient dwelling house. The Court made an order that two Justices should enquire into the matter (p. 186).

The other way was for the parish to build a house for the homeless poor, as provided for by the statute 39 and 40 Eliz., c. 3, sec. 5, amended by 43 and 44 Eliz., c. 2, sec. 4.¹ There are references to these poor-houses at North Curry, Langford Budville, Saltford, Stanton Prior, and Trull. The parish was sometimes divided in opinion about the necessity of the outlay, and the Court was called on to make the unwilling ratepayers at Chillington bear their share (p. 123). After an enquiry into a similar opposition at Trull the committee of justices reported "that all the doubts, objections and grievances do proceed more out of a wilful and froward disposition than any just cause of complaint ; and that in their opinion it is a necessary work, there being a great number of poor people, and the place very fitting" (p. 323). By an application from Saltford we learn that the poor-house was already found to be insufficient, and to require enlarging (p. 164). It is probable that most parishes had to provide some sort of a hovel in which a poor old woman, like Margaret Sibley of Isle Brewers (pp. 302, 314), might hide her wretchedness, happy if she was not suspected of being a witch ; for as Addison noted a century later, when an old woman begins to dote, and grow chargeable to the parish, she is generally turned into a witch, and the country people would be tossing her into a pond and trying experiments with her every day, if it were not for the authorities (*Spectator*, No. 117).

A very familiar feature in country life turns up in connection

¹ Prothero, G. W., *Select Statutes of Eliz. and James I.*, pp. 98, 104.

with those houses, in that the family inhabiting it to whom in the first place it was allotted began to look upon it as their own, and to claim a right of domicile against the world, and further to dispose of it as they should think fit. The dispute about the house at Milton Clevedon may be cited as a typical example, particularly as the whole business is graphically set forth in this letter of Mr. Beynon.

Goodman Montyr, I am requested to signifie to you what I heard from the parishioners of Milton Clevedon touching their clayme and challenge of the howse which yor sone lately dwelt in. First they delivered speeches to me publickly that the said house was built to be a house for the poore, and the predecessor of yor sone at that tyme being a poore man and destitute of a house the parish consented together to goe to Mr. Greene,¹ and to get from him some convenient place to build the said house upon, which they found out, and was granted by Mr. Greene unto them. And some of them affirme yt was granted Twayte and his wife and to his son by paroll only, and after them to the one aforesaid. After which grant and promise unto them confirmed by Mr. Greene, the said Twayte bestowed as much as he was hable to make of his own goodes, and the parishioners for the most parte contrybuted towards the same; and twenty shillings was given out of the Church box, and others that were strangers gave likewise towards the building of yt. Farther the greater part of the said parishioners went to Mr. Greene, and entreated me to goe with them; and then gave a great onset with a very stout challenge, untill the enemy with the report of a double cannon called them knaves; who being presently discomfited recoyled and took the soyle, and utterly disclaymed. This I am able confidently to affirme, and they themselves cannot deny if they were brought upon their othes. Also there is one Robert Tynny, one of the parish that was then one of the overseers of the poor, and one that was a chief doer in the business, will be redie at any time to deliver fully the estate of every thyng before good prooffe. And so I leave you with your doings to God, yor friend Robert Beynon. Milton Clevedon, octavo, Febr., 1619 (*S.R.*, xxv, ii, 43). Here the parishioners

¹ Lord of the manor,

evidently allowed themselves to be frightened out of their rights, but the family of Greene possessed violent tempers, and a century before an earlier Greene had kept the parishioners off the hill of Milton with a sword drawn in his hand (*Som. and Dors. N. and Q.*, vi, w, 199).

But after the poor family had been provided with a house, there remained the question of finding work for the able-bodied. In most cases the inmates were evidently expected to provide work themselves; and the authorities were already concerned with the will-not-work and cannot-work classes in all varieties. Powell Daye being sent to Kelston to be provided with a house, or else to be set on work (p. 280); at the next Sessions the inhabitants informed the Court that he was a very unruly disordered person who cannot be trusted with any work (p. 283).

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Business relating to these generally came before the Sessions by way of appeal.

Within the parish the holders of grasslands only, and therefore not possessed of teams, were apt to consider themselves exempt from any obligation to mend the roads, and had to be ordered to pay a rate per acre (appeal from Charlton Mackarel, p. 109; Baltonsborough, pp. 274, 280; Witcombe, pp. 324, 341). More often the effect of the appeal was to compel (by nature of a betterment) parishes near a main road to help to repair and maintain the same. The causeway between the east gate of Bridgwater and Crane bridge, in the parish of Bawdripp, was ordered to be mended by twelve parishes adjoining or likely to use the said causeway. In this case, however, the parishes threatened with this surcharge successfully appealed, after five years' litigation, Ilchester Sess., 1614, to Taunton, 1619. The parish of Taunton St. James having declined to repair Estridge street from the east gate of Taunton to St. Margaret's Hospital further than the dropping of their eaves, was ordered to pay equally with Taunton St. Mary Magdalene. Extraordinary traffic was alleged to be the destruction of the road from Crane bridge through Bridgwater to Petherton Heathfield; and an

extra payment was ordered to be made by the users. Stoke St. Michael complained that much extra traffic was caused by the opening out of many "colemines" in the country adjoining (p. 227); and the king's highway over Mendip had become foundeours by reason of persons digging lead mines thereon, who were ordered to desist (p. 12). The parishioners of East and South Brent complained that after they had at their great charge repaired the Abbots Causeway in Mark parish, it was becoming foundeours by reason of the traffic. The Court ordered that the two next Justices should take such course with the users as to prevent its being used (p. 321). This must refer to some destructive courses; as I have heard a farmer complain mightily that he was not allowed to destroy the road by leading manure during a thaw, on the ground that he had helped to pay for the work done on the road in the summer.

The repair and upkeep of bridges was a much more serious matter. Mould (Mowthe) bridge, which had been carried away in the great floods of 1607 (E. Green, *Bibliography of Somerset*, ii, 389; iii, 258) was to be repaired by the united efforts of Carhampton and Williton Hundreds. The work was not even begun by April, 1609, and heavy "morrsmments" were laid upon the dilatory authorities, which called forth a letter full of excuses from Sir John Wyndham to the Quarter Sessions at Ilchester, 1609, with a promise that the bridge should be set up and well finished by Bartholomew Day next (pp. 45, 47). Stanmore(s) bridge was under repair in 1613 (p. 102), but in 1625 it was still greatly decayed and dangerous for travellers; so a peremptory order was made at the Wells Sessions that the ten parishes near unto should repair or make it new by the 30th May next. Burrow bridge was to be rebuilt with stone, but as it appeared that this course (probably owing to the obstruction of stone piers) would be prejudicial to the country near unto, it was ordered to be performed in wood "as it hath ever been heretofore." Freshford bridge, now in decay in 1624, was found on a local enquiry to have been built by the Abbot of Bath and the Prior of Henton, with the benevolence of the whole county, two men being appointed by them in "disgoysed" habit to gather the charitable contributions of the whole county about one hundred years before, so the two Justices making the enquiry think it fit

that it should be repaired by the whole county (p. 345). Fleet bridge in Shutterne, Taunton, was in great need of repair in 1614 (p. 119), and was apparently finished by 1618 (p. 241); but at the Taunton Sessions of 1622 there was a complaint that a cottage had been built on the newly repaired bridge to its decay and the annoyance of the inhabitants (p. 317). It will be noticed how dilatory these proceedings could be; and in the art of shelving disagreeable matters, particularly those involving expenditure of money, the action of local authorities has remained unchanged through three centuries.

RATES AND APPEALS.

These were frequent. An inhabitant considered himself aggrieved and sought a reduction. Thomas Morris of Henstridge had his poor rate reduced to four shillings, and on regular payment no distraint to be made beyond that sum (p. 167). The tything of Newton Placy made a successful appeal to have Petherton Park rated to half the amount laid upon it (pp. 315, 316). There seems, however, to have been an unusual lack of worldly wisdom in the churchwardens of Tintinhull, who could not see how to raise the maimed soldiers' and hospital money indifferently according to every man's ability except by a tything rate; which they were accordingly directed to levy and collect (p. 229). At the Ilchester Sessions, 1623, Worle complained that they are much over-charged towards the maimed soldiers, hospitals, and other charitable uses, and desired relief from the adjacent parishes. After examination by Sir Edward Rodney and John May it was decreed that of the lump sum to be levied from Banwell, Worle, and Kewstoke, Banwell should pay one-half and the other parishes the other half in equal proportions, provided that Woodspring grange and farm, which claimed exemption on unknown grounds, do bear equal rates (pp. 328, 332).

The Hundred rate also came up for revision, particularly that item known as the Composition money. In "Quarter Sessions from Queen Elizabeth to Queen Anne," by A. H. A. Hamilton, will be found a good account of the nature of this impost and of its history in Devonshire. Somersetshire made a composition in lieu

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of the right of purveyance in 1590 (p. 184), and the arrangement seems to have worked well, as there are no records of complaints on either side during this period. The only difficulty arose in the apportionment on the different Hundreds. The four western tythings mentioned on p. 184 were the constituent parts of Kingsbury West, Wellington, West Buckland, Wiveliscombe, and Bishops Lydeard. The composition does not seem to have extended to all claims, and in 1613 the County had to find ten pounds for beer casks, which was paid by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers, and to provide carts, when Queen Anne made a royal progress to the West (pp. 153, 163).

In addition to rates levied on certain localities, already referred to, there were two special rates levied in this period. One was the Clothiers' rate. About 1620 the clothing trade of the West of England was much depressed.

In Somerset Mr. N. Barnard and Mr. S. Westcombe were chosen to go up to London to interview the Privy Council "touching the redress of the decay of clothing" (p. 316). To pay their expenses an indifferent rate was ordered to be collected forthwith from every "weaving woollen loombes" that every clothier doth keep (p. 321). The distress in Frome was so great that at the Wells Sessions of 1622-23 the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the east division was ordered to pay one pound quarterly to the Constable of the Hundred, to be distributed as need shall require (p. 323).

The other special rate was for the payment of the Muster Master, Captain Samuel Norton, whose salary was fifty pounds. His duties are given in Mr. E. Green's introduction to the *Muster Rolls of Somerset*, S.R.S., xx, 10, 11. The payment was raised from the County with great reluctance. At the Bridgewater Sessions, 1616, there was an order made that as difficulty had arisen in regard to the raising of the salary which could not instantly be done, the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers should advance the money; and it was not until a year had passed that the Q. S. ordered the rate to be made (p. 217).

HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

The care and oversight of these buildings was an important part of the business at Sessions. At the beginning of the century there were Houses of Correction, sometimes called Bridewell, at Ilchester and Taunton. That at Ilchester was under the same roof as the gaol of evil memory: and at the Wells Sessions 1614-15 the Justices made an order for the division of the rooms and courtyards between their servant the keeper and the Sheriff's servant the Gaoler (p. 128). As the portion allotted to the House consisted of two under rooms with the little court adjoining, the accommodation and lighting must have been terribly deficient. By 1624 there was a new gaol at Ilchester, with the old arrangements, whereby a portion was marked off for the House of Correction. As the whole had been built at the great and general charge of the County, the sheriff was to pay ten shillings yearly to the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the west division as an acknowledgment for such rooms as were to be employed for the gaol (p. 349). In 1791 Collinson records that at Ilchester there was a new gaol built upon the modern improved plan. This was condemned by a Commission under the Great Seal in 1821 for its defective and insufficient accommodation and insanitary state; and in 1843 the building was finally destroyed.

The House of Correction at Taunton was in great decay in 1608, and a rate was ordered to be levied for repairing the same. In 1612 William Skorier, the keeper, forwarded an account of the money laid out in time to prevent the "cheffested" rooms from falling to the ground, and stating that even then he had only two rooms, which are as yet very simple, to hold the prisoners, but he hoped it would be to the good liking of the Bench, and "to the suppressyone of vagrants and ydle Roges." After twelve years' service Skorier was removed on account of age and unfitness whereby "the western part of this County and especially the town of Taunton is much pestered with great numbers of wandering and disorderly persons who do much annoy the country" (p. 352). It is evident that the wholesome severity of Sir John Popham of Wellington "towards wandering roagues which then swarmed exceedingly" had no lasting effects.

The accommodation provided at Ilchester and Taunton being insufficient, and the criminal class increasing, at the Ilchester Sessions of 1620 it was ordered that a House of Correction should be erected within the eastern part of this shire (p. 209). Four years later it was settled that the house should be at Shepton Mallett, to be erected at the cost of £160 with £60 more for the fitting and finishing thereof. At the Wells Sessions of 1624-5 a committee of not less than six Justices was appointed to meet at Shepton Mallett on the first of February to consider of the ordering, contriving, and finishing of the House of Correction there.

DRINK TRAFFIC.

Our ancestors found this business exceedingly troublesome, and they were dealing with it on the lines which after three centuries are again being followed.

The houses for the sale of drink were divided into two classes. There were the ancient Inns for which the occupiers claimed a prescriptive right that could not be gainsaid. Lewis Lyninge of Mark (p. 120), and Richard Gellicombe of Croscombe (p. 157) both alleged that their common tippling houses were ancient inns, whereupon committees were appointed to enquire of the ancient men and parishioners as to the facts in each case, but the results are not known. In 1615 the keepers of the three ancient inns at Axbridge found that their trade was being taken away by the disorderly tippling houses outside the liberties of the borough.

The second class came under the designation of ale or tippling houses. In this period Parliament was much exercised by the growth of drunkenness, which was attributed to the great increase of facilities for drinking, as tippling houses sprang up on all sides. In June, 1605, the Lords of the Council sent instructions to the Devonshire Bench directing *inter alia* that the Justices in Petty Sessions should punish by the good behaviour such as be common drunkards and all common haunters of alehouses; and if necessary suppress and put down alehouses and tippling houses (p. 70 of *op. cit.*). They also sent down a model code of regulations to be observed by all tipplers. The year before the

Justices of Devon had adopted stringent measures for "abridging" alehouses, which they declared to be the "nursery of lawless persons." All unlicensed or ill-ordered houses were to be forthwith suppressed, and no more to be licensed, "than are of necessity ; for the use of unlawful games there, and the abuse of God's good creatures by quaffing, drinking, and gluttony, is found by lamentable experience to be the cause of manifold dangerous effects" (*op. cit.*, p. 72).

Quite as eloquent on the subject as their brethren in Devon, as may be seen in the information of John Lyminge of Green Oare to Dr. Francis James (p. 3), and the order made at the Wells Sessions, 5 James I. (p. 7), the Justices of Somerset grappled with the evil. The hill of Mendip was to be cleared of all tippling houses (pp. 8, 105). In 1615, on the petition of the jury of Bempstone Hundred that some of the six tipplers in Wedmore might be suppressed, the justices of that limit were ordered to examine, and, after licensing the fittest, to suppress the rest. At the Wells Sessions, 1616-7, the justices of each limit were to advise and see the disorderly alehouses and to suppress them. And such as they themselves cannot lawfully suppress, to acquaint the Judges thereof at the same Assizes, and to procure order and warrant from them to suppress the same. In 1618, on a petition from Martock that there had been many alehouses set up to the great annoyance of the most part of the said inhabitants, ordered that besides the inn there shall be only two alehouses.

That the wants of a parish were calculated on a liberal scale appears from the answer to a petition from Yeovil that there were too many alehouses. At the Taunton Sessions, 1618, the Court ordered that there should henceforth be nine within the borough and two outside. Nowhere perhaps does the weakness of the executive appear more painfully than in the attempted suppression of these unnecessary tippling houses. Although James Hayball's house on Mendip was the subject of serious complaint in 1607, he was resident there in 1619 to the great distress of the parish of Emborough ; and when the licence was taken from him, he immediately in contempt let the house to John Helpes, who maintained the same evil courses. In 1609, Mr. Thomas Hughes complained of Walter Withers of Pilton

for being a tippler without licence, a man very malapert, saucy, and obstinate, who had confessed his offence, but would justify himself by quilllets and evasions (p. 36). John Pearce of Midsomer Norton, alehouse keeper, managed to get some justices on his side, and created a serious division at the Ilchester Sessions, 1615 (No. 22). Mr. Lewis took it so much to heart that he addressed to the clerk of the peace the letter printed above on p. xxvi. Perhaps to prevent such pleasantness at the Bridgwater Sessions, 1618, it was ordered that a licence obtained from a justice in any other liberty or limit should be void. Under this order the licence of Robert Baker of Wellington should be suppressed, because he had obtained it at the Sessions when the justices of that division being then present were not acquainted with the grant, neither gave any consent thereto (p. 325).

A limited form of Local Option was being exercised. Most of the inhabitants of Worle having petitioned that there were two alehouses "where they allege there needeth not any," and that there was much disorder, and so on, to their great disturbance, charge, and loss; it was ordered that the two alehouses should be suppressed, and the licences, if they have any, taken from the owners (p. 248). Against a proposed tippling house the parish of West Chinnock forwarded an eloquent petition.

"Right Worshipfuls, May it please you to understand, there is one William Frenche, an inhabitant within our parish of West Chinnocke, who doth intend now at the next Sessions to procure a licence to keep an alehouse and to sell drinke, we the parishioners aforesaid do humbly entreate your worships you will not give way thereto, in regard whereof we do so that much inconvenience may arise thereby, because he hath kept tippling already for good space without licence, and doth continue yet unto this day, keeping very ill order at all times, entertaining all manner of persons whatsoever notwithstanding being presented by our constables at this last Assizes. There was never any alehouse knowen to be in our Parishe heretofore, neither do we think it fit that there should be any except it be to maintain idleness; and thus leaving to trouble your worships we do commit you to the protection of the Almighty. West Chinnock this vijth of April (1621), your worships at all times to be commanded (signatures of twelve parishioners). Endorsed:

We to alehouse but by the justices of the said limit." (*S.R.* xxxvii, i, 17.)

The brewing trade was also under supervision, both as regards the number engaged in the trade, and the quality of the beer supplied. At the Taunton Sessions, 1615, four brewers were licensed for Taunton to sell good and wholesome beer at three pence a gallon. On a petition from the chiefest of the inhabitants of Chard that the tipplers there brew their own beer, by reason thereof there was a risk of fuel being very scarce and dear, and that the beer was so strong that much drunkenness and other inconveniences ensued, so that the Almighty is much dishonoured thereby, it was ordered that Mr. Monday be licensed as a common brewer for the whole town (p. 174).

Besides the regular and irregular houses of refreshment the Justices laboured to suppress the entertainments known as "Churchales, Clerkeales, Woodwardsales, Bidales, and all kinds of such like ales" (p. 2). The order made at Wells 1607-8, was re-issued at Ilchester, 1612, "by reason of the dearth of corn," and again at Ilchester in 1624. There is plenty of evidence on all sides to prove the bad effects of these drinkings. The parish clerk of Yeovilton having disobeyed the order of 1612 had his tippling licence taken away, and then procured this letter:

"Good Mr. Brown, This bearer, John Gregory, our parish clerk of Yeovilton, who you know resteth in the mercy of the Court for brewing and keeping tippling the last year at Easter; and as he informeth us is willed by you to get a certificate that he hath long since left off his tippling. These are to certify you that he did not keep any tippling sithence Midsummer last, neither will he at any time more hereafter; for there is cause taken with us for the increase of his wages more than in former time hath been only to 'barr' him from keeping any tippling at Easter as hath been formerly used. Wherefore we desire your favour toward him to free him of his former offence if possibly you may which will be a good warning unto him for any such future occasion. Thus leaving any farther to 'hoble' you we rest always your neighbours and friends to serve, Will. Davis minister, Tho. Hodges, J. Coxe, John Baker, Will. Hopkins, Will. Collins, Robert Friday. Yeovilton, this 17 of April, 1615." (*S.R.*, xx, 73.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Court supervised the appointment and behaviour of the lower ranks of authorities in the county. Their number was legion, and their duties unpleasant. In consequence it was frequently found necessary to coerce the individuals chosen to the office. Thomas Laurence, of Radlett, within the parish of Spaxton, refused to take upon him the office of a "biddle" (p. 10); three individuals in the tything of Felton refused to be tythingmen "to the intolerable trouble and charge of the rest of the inhabitants" (p. 94); and two inhabitants of Lullington complained that they had been obliged to execute that office for that the rest of the people refused the same (p. 307). The office of constable of the parish was not coveted at Claverton (p. 111); while at Witcombe the residents complained that owing to the great number of non-resident occupiers, "they were scarce ever free from one office or the other" (341). On the other hand the inhabitants of Backwell pretended an exclusive right to choose a high constable for the hundred of Bedminster cum Hartcliffe; but Sir George Snygge, Baron of the Exchequer, decided that "the right hath some times been exercised by men of other places within that Hundred" (pp. 9, 30). Brushford being inconvenienced by the absence of any authority, the Justices made a report that a petty constable would be most necessary and expedient and that they had sworn in William Lyddon to that office, Sept., 1622 (pp. 319, 321).

In connection with the defence of the county against foreign and domestic disturbers of the peace may be noticed the petition from Taunton that the butts there had ceased to exist, on which they were ordered to be set up and maintained (p. 297); an order that the beacon on Rybery should be repaired and watched by all the inhabitants of Shepton Mallett (p. 252); and a general order issued at the Taunton Sessions, 1622, that watch and ward should continue in every parish.

The Court of Quarter Sessions was approached for relief in every kind of difficulty. The parishioners of West Hatch complained that their vicar would not be content with his customary tithes, but threatened them with suits so that by no means could

they be quiet with him. The vicar of Bicknoller's efforts to reform certain parishioners who played at bowls in the churchyard and preferred to see players at the time of divine service by citing them to the Ecclesiastical Court at Wells were much resented, and the Court was asked to "reclaim him from these and the like his uncharitable and malicious courses" (p. 60). The inhabitants of Tintinhull found by reason of divers trifling and small suits depending between them and Thomas Napper, gent., "great sums of money are likely to be spent and wasted to the impoverishment of divers persons," and therefore desired the Court to appoint an arbitrator to make a final end of the controversies (p. 156). There is also the petition of Frances Fursey that James and Joane Greedy, "people of lewd conversation and naughty demeanor" had enticed away her husband Valentine, "a very simple and plain fellow," to live in some place unknown to any of his friends, and so she asks for redress of her wrongs. Perhaps the unfortunate Valentine feared the fate of another husband as given in the Sessions Rolls, XXV, 23.

That about three months past one John Hall of Temple in the parish of Cameley, being fallen out with his wife Mary upon some speeches between them, and one Joane Sage her mother, and especially for that she would not set a hen a brood (being as it is reported xxx years old), and had no meat to give her, and thereupon she stroke him upon the back with a frying pan, and the said smith being appointed to come to one Mr. Hobbs of the same parish the afternoon of the same day, he sent word that he could not come, for that his wife had stroke him with a pan and had beaten him. Whereupon afterwards the same being known abroad in the parish, some men there upon a working day usually used for making merry as their "Revill" day, then to make some sport had one to ride upon men's shoulders by the name of "Skymerton" without any hurt done or misdemeanours otherwise at all. For which Mr. Baker bound over five men (names given) to answer the same at the Sessions. (In connection with this "sport" eight men were committed at the Bridgwater Sessions 1616 to gaol for want of surety.)

Even before the Court plain speaking was occasionally heard. Edward Pynny of Broadway being committed for

scandalising a minister and remanded to the next Sessions, in a very disordered manner said the Justices dealt hardly with him (p. 133). William Cleye of Langport Westover, for many misdemeanours and his insolent behaviour in court towards Mr. Pyne, saying that whatsoever he should say, the Clerk of the Peace and some other should swear it to be true, lost his licence.

Then, as now, there were persons whose one aim in life was to be as great a nuisance as possible to their neighbours. The case of Elliott of Bruton is typical, which produced the following petition from the outraged inhabitants to the Bench.

"Right Worshipful; Whereas it is reported that there is a Bridewell appointed in our Countie for the correction of rude and disordered people; soe it is that Jeffrey Elliott of our towne of Brewton, being a very dangerous fellow, and such a one which many the chieftest of our towne stand in great fear of, having not only demeaned himselfe very lewdly in general towards all, but also spoken to their face, and reported that he would set their houses on fire. Notwithstanding he hath been twice sent by authority from his Majesty's Justices to the said house, yet he is continued still in the common gaoyle, where he learns to become more rude; which we the inhabitants of Brewton taking to be a wrong not only to us but to the whole county, do desire you will be pleased to examine the truth thereof, whether there be any such place of correction, with the allowance, or not, if there be, that the whole county may have right, and this Elliott (for our Town's safety) his due desert. Thus leaving it to your judicious consideration we humbly take our leave and rest (signatures of petitioners). Brewton, 14th September." (S.R., xxxii, i, 40.)

The desire of the petitioners seems to have been rather for vengeance; but the following statement from Trent has a more modern tone.

"Whereas Abraham Brokes *alias* Thorne of the parish of Trent is of late grown a very dissolute and idle person, in so much that abandoning his trade he hath given himself over wholly to drunkenness, quarrelling, and other ill causes, by means whereof he is become very offensive to his neighbours; we whose names are underwritten, being desirous of his timely

reformation, do humbly entreat your Worshippes that you would be pleased to take such course as in your judgement shall seem meet, whereby his former life may be amended, which we earnestly desire as well for himself, as for his wife and children, who, if he continue these courses, cannot but suffer great want and misery, we humbly take our leave" (list of petitioners. *S.R.*, xli, i, 52). From another petition dated at Trent 30th September, 1622, it appears that "without a licence and contrary to his recognizances of the good behaviour he built a tippling house, and with bull and bear baitings drew much disorderly company together." The case of Elizabeth Busher was, perhaps, even more serious, as she was reputed and feared to be a dangerous witch (p. 96).

That the Bench of Quarter Sessions possessed disciplinary powers involving indeterminate sentences is clear from an order (No. 13) made at the Wells Sessions, 1623-4, that, on information that Thomas Wyatt of Preston had become a very lewd and dangerous person not fitting to live at liberty for fear of doing hurt and injury to the King's subjects, he should be sent to the House of Correction to be safely kept and set on work until further order be taken.

This order seems a link between the civil and the criminal business with which this volume is not concerned. After a perusal not only of the Minute books, but also of the multitude of documents contained in the Sessions Rolls, giving the very acts and words of the parties in all ranks of society concerning the matter in hand, two reflections have been very clearly impressed on my mind. The first is that the lives of these plain English folk are the fountain from which the crowd of Shakespeare's characters is derived. Every one of his squires, constables, serving men, labourers, clowns, drunkards and other picturesque villains, have their real prototypes in these pages. Only a man in touch with life in all its aspects, high and low, could have reproduced them, in the words of Hamlet: "so that they overstep not the modesty of nature; for anything so overdone is from the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first, and now, was, and is, to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature: to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure."

The other reflection is of a more serious nature. Every ill in the body politic, now being diagnosed and treated, was already recognised and provided with a remedy. Want of housing accommodation, want of work, the difficulty of keeping local authorities up to the mark, evils of the drink traffic, the nuisance of tramps and vagrants, the danger of a weak-minded viciously-inclined residuum among the population, were already the subject of paternally-minded legislation, and the care of an energetic magistracy. That after three centuries these remedies have not produced the results aimed at is plain on every side. The descendants of the justices are still passing sentence on the descendants of the delinquents for the same offences; and the difficulties of the County Council are those of the Quarter Sessions, more complicated and more expensive. This may seem a pessimistic frame of mind, but twenty years' experience of life in the country and local district government has raised an uncomfortable foreboding that even after the lapse of another three centuries the millennium may still be delayed. For to conclude with a well-worn observation: "*Naturam expelles furca, tamen usque recurret.*" And so, in the words of the petitioners to their Worships of the Bench, I humbly take my leave.

SOMERSET

QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS,

TEMP. JAMES I.

SESSIONS ROLLS, BOOK I.

[4, 33, 40 ELIZABETH, 1561, 1591, 1597.]

1. "The saying of Christian Hayes of Strotton the 29th day of December, 1561, before James Bisse," being slanderous accusations made by John Acarye on Stephen's day last against Alice Clarke as she (Christian Hayes) was coming from the church at Evercreech in the company of the said John Acary or Cary his wife and the said Alice [Alce] Clarke.

2. *Somerset*.—An Order made at George Hinton the 6th of December, 1597, under the hands and seals of Sir Anthony Poulett and John Portman, Esq., for the maintenance of an illegitimate child born within the parish of Chiselborough. Endorsed, "A Certificat against Steephen Templecombe [Templeman] and Alice Thomas by Sir Anthonie Pawlet, Knight, and John Portman, esquire, in causa Spurit. apud Wells xlmo."

3. *Dunster*.—An Application by the Constables and others for a permit to allow eight poor people of Dunster whose names are given to seek their relief amongst well disposed persons elsewhere, "because we find in our said town a far greater charge of poor people than we among ourselves are able to relieve."

Dated 7th of January, 1597, etc. "The names of the poor," etc. These are licensed to beg within the hundreds of Carhampton and Williton Free Manors.

4. Orders taken and agreed upon by Christopher Kenn and John Maye, Esquires, etc., concerning a bastard child born at Axbridge, etc., by one John Strowde of Shepton Mallett, etc., tanner, and Margery Moore, of which child the said John Strowde was found to be the reputed father the 28th of September, 1592, the father to pay weekly 8*d.* to the Collectors for the poor of Axbridge until the child should be able to get his own living, and all arrearages and money due after the said rate since the said child's birth. And for discharge of his punishment pay unto the forenamed Christopher Kenn at or on this side the first day of May next £4 for the amending and repairing of foundrous market and highways within the said countie, or else to be whipped, being naked from the waist upwards, openly through three several market towns at the time of the full markets, viz., Axbridge, Wells and Shepton Mallett, etc. The said Margery Moore shall weekly pay unto the said Collectors sixpence of like money, etc., and to be openly whipped in and upon two several market days throughout the full market of Axbridge aforesaid, being naked from the waist upwards, etc.

5. The names of such as this year have not performed their due works to the highways in the parish of Weare within the hundred of Bempston.

SESSION ROLLS, BOOK II (1607-8).

1. *Somerset*.—At the General Sessions of the Peace holden at Ivelchester on the 14th of April, 5 James [1607]. Roger Chaplin of Streat, husbandman, is licensed and appointed by the Justices to be a common lader, badger, kidder, buyer, carrier and transporter of butter and cheese within the said county of Somerset, and the same so bought to carry and sell again in any open fair or market within the counties of Wilts, Hants and

Devon, so that he use and occupy the same according to the tenor and true meaning of the statute made and provided against Regrators, forestallers and ingrossers, etc. This licence to continue for one whole year next after the date hereof, etc.

Tho. Phelyppes.
John Farewell.
John Adams.

2. A similar licence granted at the same Sessions to John Stone of Newton in the said county, husbandman, to buy corn, butter and cheese within the same county and to be a common badger, kydder, lader and carrier of corne, butter and cheese according to the form of the statute, etc., and the same so bought to carry and sell again in any open fair or market within the said county of Somerset or the counties of Wilts, Dorset and Devon, and to return out of the said county of Devon, "loaden with fyshe pilcorne salte or some other comodities of the same," and to sell again and deliver in like open fair or market in the said county of Somerset. Provided that he shall not travel by this licence with above three horses at the most; the same to have continuance for one whole year from the date hereof. [Signed and sealed by the same Justices.]

31. The information of John Lyminge of Greene Oare upon the forest of Mendippe, given to Francis James, doctor of law, 16th July, 1607.

Who informeth and saith that at Green Oare on the forest of Mendipp there is an alehowse kept and drink contrary to the statute; wherein there is much disorder. In which alehouse he saith that about a week after midsummer last past there was a notorious thief kept and concealed who was said to have come out of Essex and having continued there the space of a fortnight he was by the host of the house (whose name is James Hayball) and his wife furnished of new apparel, a horse and other necessities, and so conveyed out of the country, which thief was, as the said Lyminge hath been informed, and is able to produce his author, had committed some fact (?) and being in danger to have been apprehended was there harboured. And further he informeth that there is such continual drunkenness,

swearing, swaggering, and blasphemy of the name of God, as is most insufferable in a well governed commonwealth, and most scandalous and offensive to all well disposed Christians, and there humbly prayeth that reformation may be had, and such horrible and excessive sin and wickedness suppressed. "Addinge" that Hayball's wife and one Scudgell (?) have sold stolen oare. That Bushop a thief was entertained there and went away in his boots in a night when one Burge of Chewton had a mare stolen. That three suspicious fellows came into the house and parted money, at a time when one Cornishe of Wells was robbed.—ffran : James.

40. Certificate in favour of Alexander Scalter of Brislington signed by James Langton and others dated 11th of January, 1607-8, and directed to the Justices at Wells Quarter Sessions.

41. Application for an adjournment for the further hearing of a paternity case until the next General Sessions. [Agnes West and Thomas Jeffery.] From Taunton this 9th day of January, 1607-8, signed by Ja. Clark and George ffarewell.

42. Certificate signed by the overseers and churchwardens of Corry Revell that a child towards the releaving and maintenance of which Marmaduke Comstock had been ordered to pay fourpence every week by the Right Worshipfuls Sir Edwarde Hexte and Sir Thomas Phillips Knights is dead and Buryed the xth day of January.

43. Petition to the Justices of the Peace at the Wells Sessions 1607-8 from the parishioners of Chuton, [Chewton] stating that Richard ffeara a man above 60 years of age born within the parish of Chew Magna and having spent a great part of his time in working for lead oare upon the fforest of Mendip, had lately become almost blind and likely to become chargeable to the parishioners of Chuton except speedy redress be had therein. In consideration thereof they desired an order for his maintenance in the parish where he was born "the rather for that he had never any settled abiding place in any sort with us at Chuton nor was ever taken as a parishioner there by

receiving the Communion or performing any other duty belonging to a subject," etc.

44. Letter from William Hill to his very good friend and patron Mr. Thomas Horner Esquier certifying what was confessed to him by Andrew Virgin and Silvester Wats.—5 James I.

45. General Sessions of the Peace, etc., held at Bridgwater, in the county aforesaid the Tuesday before the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle Anno Dni 1607. Sir John Windham, Knight, and George Luttrell Esqr. two Justices, etc., ordered and desired to "examine the behaviour and quallety" of James Pearse of Winsford, etc., husbandman, accused of being "a man of very evill disposicon and doth receaue and harbour in his howse many vagarant lewd and suspicious psons [persons]," etc.

(Signed) p. Johem Saward, Deput. Clici pacis.

The Justices named to certify their proceedings herein at the next Sessions.

Opinion (endorsed on this document) by the said Justices that the said Pearce should be dismissed as a tippler.

Wells, 5. "Hee is to be dissmysed for eu' [ever] to Teple again and an order to be drawn to that effect."

46. A notification signed by "Jasper Jones minister" and seven other parishioners of Westbuckland, dated 10th of January, 1607-8, to the effect that one Elynor Burley of Axminster and her child were both dead and buried, for whom Thomas Clarke was bound to appear at this sessions at Wells for a reputed matter of incontinency. And that the said Thos. Clarke had satisfied her brothers and friends of all such things as are fit and necessary concerning the matter although she died before any child was born into the world.

61. Articles against Thomas Marsh and Thomas Traske wardens at Yevel [Yeovil]. Some of the disorders at our Church ale at Yeavell this year 1607.

It was an usual thing upon the "sabothe" day to have minstrelsie and dauncinge and "carrynge men vpon a cavell stafe,

the wardinges themselves Thomas Marshe and Roger Traske wear willingly so caried to the church." "Witness: Thomas Braine, Thomas Jarves," etc.

62. Letter dated from Cloford 15th of September, 1607, written by Thomas Hornyr, addressed to the Justices, etc., at this General Sessions assembled, stating that the bearer hath been very much abused by one Skryne who, etc., have overthrown a stone bridge of this bearer's, where he did usually travel with his plough to fetch his corn; by that means he was constrained to drive two miles about and his plough in danger of drowning, etc. And therefore I pray you to take that course with him and the rest according to their lewd deserts, etc.

63. Letter dated from Chew written by your loving frend Fra. Baber, 13th Sepr. to Sir Edward Hext, Knight, and John Pine, Esquier, respecting "Old Pricket his wife and his daughter bound over to this Sessions upon the complaint of Allin," etc.

64. Thomas Nethellyng confesseth he keepeth three fighting bulls, with which he travellet to such watches and other places as he is hired; and saith since Easter he hath been at Ilton, two days at Baker's Churchale, and had for his Bull's fighting there 13s. 4d.; and at Ilchester with John Bowden at a watch which he kept; and at Gregory Stoke with one Trystram Bale, who kept a watch, and had there 9s. He was likewise at Meere in Wiltes, where he stayed two days with his Bulls and had xxs. for his pains; and was likewise at Sturminster in Dorset at Rasedowne watch, where he stayed two days and had xxs. for his pains; and was also at Sherborne Churchale with his bull, and stayed there one day, and had for his bull's fighting xs. Edw. Hext. Flagell. and relax.

65. Letter from John Gerard of Kingsbury, dated 11th of January, 1606-7, to Maurice Gylbert, Esq. of Wytcombe, soliciting permission for a poor man [John Bishop of Milborne Port, carpenter] to build a cottage on waste land.

66. Permission given to said John Bishop to build such cottage upon a parcel of waste, the inheritance of John Gerrard, gentleman, etc.

77. January 13th, 1607-8, at Wells. An order at the Sessions forbidding bull-baitings.

It was at this present Sessions ordered, etc., "that all Bulbaytings, Bearebaytings, Churchales, Clerkeales, Woodward-ales, Bidales, and all kindes of such like ales whatsoever be immediately frō henceforth throughout whole countie of Somst vtterly forbidden and suppressed. And that an order heretofore taken concerning the said Churchales and such like at Bridgewater by the late Lord Cheife Justice of England and other justices of the peace of this Countie then and there present be henceforth fully renewed, confirmed, and established," etc.

All the inhabitants of each parish to be rated for reparation and maintenance of the church.—Signed by Jo. Bath and Wellen. and eleven other Justices. Jo. Bath and Wellen, Jo. Rodney, Henry Walrond, ffran : James, Thomas Hughes, Fra. Baber, John Stocker, John ffarewell, John May, John Adams, Christopher Preston, John Pyne.

79. An order for referring the case of the paternity of an illegitimate child born in Wells, to three Justices.

80. An order made at the General Sessions at Wells 5 James I. for the relief and maintenance until the next General Sessions of Henry Porter, late of Evercreech "Grome" [Groom] being lately pressed for His Majesty's service, and travelling towards the place of "imbarquing" himself and the rest of his company, did casually by the discharging a calliver receive a wound and mayheme in one of his hands, by means whereof he being by trade only a husbandman, is wholly disabled [disinabled] to get his living by his labour, etc. The order made on the inhabitants of the hundred of Wells, for that he was to have served for the same hundred, etc. "And whereas there is some portion of a former rate beyond and due unto him out of the Town of Wells, it is likewise ordered that for his better relief the same shall forthwith be satisfied unto him."

81. An order made at the General Sessions held at Wells 5 James I., against persons keeping tippling or ale houses upon "the hill of Mendipp." "Fforasmuch as upon due examination

it hath unto the Court at this Sessions manifestly appeared that divers notorious misdemeanors and abuses have been committed by such as without or by or under the pretence of licences have kept Tippling or Alehouses upon the hill of Mendipp, as well in receiving and harboring of Thieves and other Lewde vagrant and wandering persons as also in respect they standing remote from the eye and view of such officers as have the charge of government are reputed to be places of receipt of common drunkards and of laborers and menservants, suffering them to spend their time and waste their goods in most lewd and vicious manner, as well in tippling and *bowsing* there upon the Sabbath and holy days at the time of divine service, as at and on other days and times when they should be at their work. It is therefore at this Sessions ordered and decreed that henceforth no person or persons whatsoever at or in any place upon the said hill shall be licensed, permitted, or suffered to keep any Alehouse or Tippling house, or to suffer any to eat or drink by way of tippling in their said houses, or to employ their or any of their said houses as alehouses there, or to keep any house or houses of receipt or loding for any travellers, wanderers or vagrant persons whatsoever, upon such pain, penalty and punishment as by the laws and ordinances of this realm are to be inflicted upon such as shall in such sort offend."

82. An order made at the same Sessions against Thomas Kerley of Wells and Andrew Virgin of Nunney, for the support of the child of Silvester Watts of the parish of Mells. [See No. 20.]

83. (a) An order made at the same Sessions against John Dagg of Wookey, for the support of the child of Susan Wilcox of Wookey.

83. (b) At the same Sessions an order made that the matter in variance between Edward ffathers of Ivelchester and William Kellway, his apprentice, be referred to the examination of Mr. Maurice Gilbert, Mr. John ffarwell, and Mr. Alexander Ewens, or unto any two of them.

84. An order made for the delivery of James Norman from the house of correction in Taunton.

84. An order made for the settlement of the child of Elizabeth Goodman on "the Town of Wells." The mother "travelling from the Town of Wells (where she had lately before been abiding) unto the waterside to seek her passage into Wales, and fortun'd in her journey to be delivered of child in the parish of Uphill, etc."

85. Inasmuch as at these Sessions complaint hath been made that Thomas Strowde of . . . in the County of Somerset . . . hath wilfully refused to pay such rateable proportion towards all common charges for His Majesty's service as his indifferent neighbours have taxed on him. It is therefore ordered that if he shall at any time hereafter refuse to satisfy such indifferent Rates as shall be in such causes imposed upon him, that a Warrant of the good behaviour be forthwith awarded against him to answer his contempt in that behalf.

It is ordered that John Guppy, at this Sessions convicted and punished as an incorrigible Rogue [Roage], and Paschy Guppy his wife, shall be both delivered out of ward and a pass or warrant for their conduct or pass unto the place of their last abode, according to the law.

86. General Sessions of the Peace taken at Wells, etc., Wednesday next after the Feast of Epiphany, 5 James I.

An order confirming the ancient custom or usage of the inhabitants of Backwell to elect and nominate a high constable within the said parish of Backwell, etc., "that now or late the Steward of the hundred of *Rackcliffe* hath endeavoured to abridge them of that prerogative, and by innovation hath taken the election of that officer from them, and chosen a constable in another parish," etc.

The examination of the matter of Bastardy wherewithall Hugh Prince of Glaston, in the county of Somerset, gent., is charged to be referred to the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Mr. Doctor James, Sir John Rodney, Kt., Tho. Hughes, Esqr., or to any two of them, etc.

87. Reference to a jury of the inhabitants of the hundred of Cannington of the cause of Thomas Laurance of Radlett within the parish of Spaxton, husbandman, who refused to take upon him the office or duty of a "Biddle" when the same falleth unto his turn, etc.

88. Order made that Mathew Joyce of Evercreech, gent, shall pay 12*d.* weekly towards the relief of the child of Jane Webb until he bring forth one David ffurbor the reputed father, etc.

Order referring the cause of Thomas Morris of Henxtridge, etc., yoman, who had refused to pay such rateable proportion towards all common charges for His Majestys service, etc., to Maurice Gilbert and John ffarwell, Esqrs.

89. At the General Sessions of the Peace taken at Wells, etc., Wednesday the 20th.

The cause of John Vyle of Southpetherton, husbandman, the accused father of the base child of Elyonor Luccock of Kingsbery to be referred unto Sir George Speake, Knight, Henry Walrond and John Pyn, Christopher Preston, Esquiors, or any three or two of them, etc.

90. The case of William ffooke of Glaston, butcher, and Mary Rodney referred to Mr. Doctor James and Thomas Hughes, Esq.

The case of Robert Jennynge of Trull, husbandman, and Jane Drywood referred to James Clarke and George ffarwell, Esqs.

An order that John Herne of Thorn, etc., Clerk, be committed to the common gaol without bail or mainprice until he pays all arrears and perform an order heretofore made in a cause of bastardy, etc.

91 (a) An order referring the cause of William Hellyer of Puckington, and Mary Parsley to Sir George Speake and Henry Walrond, Esq.

[Paternity case.]

(b) An order referring to two of the next justices, etc., William Rogers als Lokyer of Lemyngton and Alce Hopkins.

(c) Whereas Anna Waters of Pylton in the county of Somerset is accused with stealing of wool from her Master to the value of *iiij* *d.* it is ordered that she be set in the stocks in the open market at Shepton Mallet on Friday next being the xith of January, 1607-8, and there to continue with a lock of wool hanged before her, purporting her offence during the continuance of the market that day.

(c) An order for the release and discharge of Thomas Carpenter of Westbuckland in the matter of child of which he had been accused to be the father, the said Thomas having by certificate this day informed the court that the said child is dead, etc.

92 (a) An order that Mathew Joyce of Evercreech in the county of Somerset, gent., do pay *12* *d.* weekly towards the relief of a child of one Joane Webb, the payment thereof to continue untill he bring forth one David ffurbar the reputed father of the same child, etc.

92 (b) Whereas one Richard ffeare late of Chew Magna hath a long time "bin a grover of lead uppon the forest of Mendipp wthin [within] the parish of Chewton and only lodged or layn thear wthin the same pishe of Chewton in a groue [grove] howse during such time as he wrought theare. And is of late decayed in his body and not able longer to maintain himself by his labour" it is therefore ordered that he be sent back to the parish of Chew Magna and there relieved according to the law.

92 (c) Whereas William Beaks, late Constable of the hundred of Winterstoke, hath made complaint that the sums of *£6* *9s.* *8d.* *ob.* is denied to be paid out of divers tithings within the said hundred for His Majesty's service, which the said late constable hath already paid out of his purse. It is therefore ordered that Sir Ew. Gorges, Kt., John May and John Addams, Esq., shall examine the matter and to take such course therein as unto them shall seem fit in justice and equity.

93 (a) Whereas one Roger Walter of Discowe within the parish of Brewton did about Michaelmas last retain one Hugh

Merick to serve him for a year as a shepherd, who served a month or more thereof, notwithstanding the Walter hath put him away contrary to the law (if the said suggestion be true). It is therefore ordered that the said Merick do return to his said Master and to serve out his *covenant* or to be discharged according to the statute in such case provided.

93 (b) An order that the examination of the matter in variance between the inhabitants of Kaynsham Hundred and the inhabitants of Kaynsham be referred to John Stocker, John Addams, and Francis Baber, Esquires.

95. Order made at Wells Sessions 1607-8, that James Pearce of Winsford shall not henceforth at any time hereafter be licensed, permitted or suffered to keep any alehouse, tippling house or house of entertainment to lodge or harbour any wayfaring persons whatsoever.

SESSION ROLLS, BOOK III, i. (1608).

17. The examination of Agnes Pope of Minehead within the said county, spinster, taken before me, George Luttrell, Esquire, etc., 5th day of February, 5 James I. [1607-8]. A paternity case, mention made of a place called Rockehead between Dunster and Minehead.

18 (a) An order made for the settlement of Elizabeth Hodges in the Parish of Glaston.

(b) An order made that divers informations exhibited by Peter Barber, gent, against divers persons of the parish of Ylminster [Ilminster], shall be tried at the next General Sessions holden at Taunton.

(c) Whereas the Court hath been this day informed that by means of digging lead oare upon the fforest of Mendip the King's highway there in divers places is become very foundeours and exceeding dangerous for His Majesty's liege people in passing that way, it is therefore at this Sessions ordered that none shall

henceforth dig or make any mines [moyns] in the said highway upon pain that may ensue, etc.

(d) It is ordered that Willm. Gryffin, now a prisoner remaining in the gaol, shall forthwith be delivered unto William Addams Constable of the hundred of Horethorn.

(e) Licence granted unto John Cole of Wollavington, husbandman, to erect and build a cottage within the parish of Wollavington upon parcel of the inheritance of [] Wyllys.

An order made that the examination of Hugh Prince of Glaston, gent, and another in the case of paternity be referred to Sir John Rodney, Knight, Mr. Doctor James and Thomas Hughs, Esq., etc., to certify at the next General Sessions.

20. At the General Sessions of the Peace holden at Ivelchester the 5th day of August, 6 James I.

An order rescinding an order made at the General Sessions held the 13th day of January, 1607-8, that Richard ffeare should be sent unto Chew Magna where he was born and there be relieved according to the law, etc., inasmuch as this Court hath this present day been informed that the said Richard ffeare was not dwelling in Chew Magna this twenty and odd years. And upon [pfe] proof thereof. And also upon the certificate now shewed forth under the hands of Sir Geo. Snigg, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and Sir Hugh Smyth, Knight, and others which have taken pains and examined the same case, etc., ordered that the said ffeare shall be remanded back to the parish of Wells where it appeareth he hath inhabited for a long time, etc.

21. Whereas William Payne of Hunspill, etc., hath suffered great losses as well by the burning of his house as also by the last great inundation of waters, etc. It is therefore ordered at this Sessions holden at Bridgwater the 15th September, 1607, that the said Willm. Payne shall have from the Treasurer of the hospitals of the Western limit the sum of forty shillings, etc.

To the "Treasurer" of the Hospital of the Western limit or his sufficient deputy.

Jo. Malet, Francis Popham, Edward Rogers.

22. An order referring the case of John Browne of Wyncalton and ffortune Harris as to the paternity of a child to Sir John Rodney, Knt., John Stocker and Thomas Hughes, Esquiers, etc.

23. An order made at the General Sessions at Ivelchester 5 April 6 James [1608] referring the case of Hugh Merrick of Brewton complaining of his old poor and impotent estate as one having no means to "releeff himself," etc., to Sir "Morris" Barkley, Knight, and John ffarewell, Esquire, etc.

24. An order referring the case of Bryan Jellett of Tyntenhull husbandman, and Mary Pyttard of Kingsbury, Spinster, unto Sir Tho. Phelipps, Kt., Henry Wallrond, Jo. Pyne and Christopher Preston, Esqrs. [Paternity case.]

25. An order made at the Sessions as to the relief and settlement of servants and labourers.

26. A calendar of the prisoners at the General Sessions at Ivelchester 5 April, 6 James I.

27. An order made by Sir John Rodney, Knight, and Francis James, Doctor of the law, etc., the last day of March, 1608, concerning a child born of Alice Hopkins of Lymington of which Willm. Rogers of Lymington is the reputed father.

28. An order made on Thomas Atkyns of Merryett, "ffustianweaver," for the maintenance of the child of Elizabeth Scriven of Crickett Thomas, which our said order Alexander Atkyns, vicar of Merryott, father of the said Thomas Atkins, hath undertaken shall be performed. Dated 12th March 1607, Henry Walrond, John Pyne, Crystofe Preston.

36. The examination of Richard ffere taken before John Stocker and ffrauncis Baber, Esquires, the 27th day of January 5 James I. [See No. 20.]

Who saith that he was born at Chew and that about 20 year ago since he removed from thence and came to Chewton and wrought at the hill and lodged and made his abode at Green

Oare with one White for the space of eight years or thereabouts and paid the said White for a room or lodging two pence by the week and so from thence went to Wells and rented a chamber of one Thomas Kellwaye in Wells and paid for the same eight shillings by the year for his rent and continued there two years and half and in that meantime he wrought a "groof" at Cuckcone Cleeves upon Mendipp being within the liberty of Wells. And further saith that after he removed from Wells he came and made another groof (?) house at Tower hill being also within the liberty of Wells and wrought the said groof by the space of half a year in which meantime space he lay in his groof house and bought his victuals at the Ale house there. And from thence came to Cuckcone (?) Cleeves within the liberty of Chewton and there wrought in another groof by the space of two years and lay in the groof house all that time. And then being not able to work any longer by reason of sickness and other infirmities a brother of his brought him to Chewton to the Inn one Friday last. And also further saith that all the meantime while he lay in Wells he did watch and ward for his landlord being an old man and that he received the communion there and paid his offerings to Mr. Crosse being then parson or farmer of the parsonage of Wells.

John Stocker.
Fra. Baber.

37. 2nd day of October, 1607, and the 3rd day of April, 1608. As to the paternity of a child at Luccombe, Dorothy Haynes and Charles Webber. Evidence taken before George Luttrell, Esqre. *

38. A pass for a poor man going from Bristol to his home at North Curry, signed by the Mayor of Bristol and an Alderman.

Whereas this bearer John Lyder hath bin Dwellinge lately in this City wth one Willm. Harris Inholder and ys of late by meanes of his longe sicknes fallen into povertye and ys very lame and feeble not able to goe and was (as he informeth) borne at North Curry in the county of Somst., these are therefore to pray and requier all constables and tythingmen to whome these pnts

[presents] shall or may appteyne [appertain] to cause him to be caryed from tythinge to tythinge and pishe [parish] to pishe vntill he shalbe brought to North Curry afforesaid, and to releve him by the way as his necessitie shall Requier. Yeoven at Bristoll afforesaid the XXth of June, 1608.

Mathew Haviland, Mayor.
John Webbe, Alderman.

52. The petition of "your daily orator John Browne of Wincaunton" stating that ffortyn Harrys, his late sefvant and then inhabiting within the parish of Shipham Montacute (Shepton Montacute) had greatly wrongged him in accusing him of being the father of her child: he therefore asks for a further examination of the said ffortyn Harris whereby the truth may be known, etc., and that she might have such due correction as may please your worships to impose and inflict upon her whereby she may make known the father of the child.

53. A request dated the 3rd of April, 1608, from the Churchwardens and "side men" of the parish of Trull to the Justices of the Peace being "president" at the Sessions now holden at Ilchester, stating that one Robert Jennings had had two base in his house, etc. "We request your Worships' censure and lawful justice in these matters of indifferent requests, whereby our parish may be discharged or saved harmless of these base children of whatsoever incumbrance may befall, etc.

Churchwardens of Trull—John Babbe, Robert Smyth; Side men—Henry Moore, John Smith, Richard Crosse, William Hearinge.

54. A certificate dated the 3rd day of April, 1608, addressed unto the Right Worshipfull Mr. John Pyne, Esquier, signed by twenty-six of the inhabitants of Midlezoy, stating that whereas John Newman within our parish of Midlezoy hath been informed to the Right Worshipfull Sir Edward Phillipps to be of "inhonest and illbehaviour" they had thought it good to certify unto you and to the rest of this Worshipful Bench that he liveth very honestly and with his handy labour as is fitting for a man of his sort, etc.

20th of March, 1607.

Right Worshipfulls, etc., whereas by information of John Harris unto Sir Ed. Phelips, His Majesty's Sergeant, he did grant a warrant of the good behaviour against one John Newman of Midlezoy for arresting of the foresaid Harris in the parish church of Othery with common process at the suit of Mr. Edward Deyer esquier after the epistol and gospel was ended; he saith in his information that the Minister was then disturbed in reading divine prayer; these are therefore to certify unto the Worshipfuls of this Bench by me Henry Pike, minister there, and many others of my parishioners hereunder written that there was no disturbance at all in the church, but that Harris was going forth of the church and this Newman stepped to him and whispered softly in his ear and then they departed quietly together etc.

Signed by "Henry Picke vicca^r of Otherye" and twelve parishioners.

Indorsed "the certificate of John Newman."

55. A licence granted by Sir Thomas Phellips, Knt., and Christopher Preston, Esqr., upon the application of eight of the inhabitants of Hasselber Plucknet for the widow with six poor children, without house or harbour, of one William Horsey late of our said parish who died about two years now last past, to erect a house upon a plot of ground given to her by the Right Worshipful Sir John Portman, Knt., Lord of the manor.

SESSION ROLLS, No. III, PART 2.

5, 6 JAMES I., 1608.

1. A certificate dated 3rd March, 1608, from the Vicar and Churchwardens of Wedmore addressed to the Worshipful Doctor James and other the King's Majesty's Justices of the Bench at Ivelchester Sessions, etc., certifying that Margerie Chalcroft when

she did penance in our church of Wedmore professed before the whole parish that one Wylliam *Letheatt* was father of her child and none else and the voices and consciences of many here do clear Edward Hopper.

2. A certificate dated the 2nd of April, 1608, addressed to Dr. James, etc., by the Vicar of Wedmore and four honest women as to the paternity of Margery Chalcrofts; much to the same effect as the preceding certificate.

4. The Hundred of Cattlesaishe. The constables there. North Cadbury: the names of the churchwardens and an aleseller. West Lidford; the churchwardens and tipplers. The Liberty of Queen Cammell: the constables, churchwardens and alesellers. The Liberty of Castle Carye: the names of the constable, churchwardens (Anthonye Abarrawe, gent., John Russe), and tipplers there.

5. An order dated the 30th of May, 1608, by Alexander Ewens and John ffarewell, Esqrs., for the maintenance of an illegitimate Child at Corton Dinham.

6. An order made the 21st of May, 1608, by Sir Edward Gorges, Knt., John Maye and John Adams on William Lytheat of Wedmore, "millard," the reputed father of Margerie Chalcrofte's child, etc., to pay weekly unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poor "or to the more part of them every Sunday presently after the end of morning prayer" etc. And the said 6*d.* a week so paid shall remain in a stock to be employed for the placing of the said child apprentice etc., the mother to keep the said child herself without any allowance if by the churchwardens etc., she shall be thought fit and able to do; if she refused then she was to pay 12*d.* a week in the manner as the reputed father was ordered to pay. The mother when fit and able to travel to be whipped through the next market town, etc. [See Nos. 1 and 2].

7. An order made the 26th June, 1608, by Tho. Phelypes, Henry Walrond, John Pyne and Christopher Preston, Esquires, for the maintenance of an illegitimate child born in Ilminster.

8. An order made by George Luttrell and John Trevelyan, Esquires, for the maintenance of an illegitimate child at Luccombe "until other order be taken by us or the Justices in the Sessions."

9. An order made towards the keeping of an illegitimate child, born at East Lambrook in the parish of Kingsbury [Episcopi], dated 26th June, 1608. Tho. Phelypes, Henry Walrond, John Pyne, Chrystofer Preston.

10. 16th April, 1608. An order made towards the keeping of an illegitimate child born in the parish of Kingsbury [Episcopi]. Tho. Phelppes, Henry Walrond, Chrystofer Preston.

11. An order made towards the keeping of an illegitimate child born at Barrington. Dated 26th day of June, 1608. Philipps, Walrond, Pyne, and Preston.

12. An order set down and subscribed by John ffrauncis and Humfrey Windham, Esquiers, at Milverton, &c., the 11th day of March, 1608, for the maintenance of an illegitimate child born at West Buckland, ninepence a week to be paid by the reputed father every Sunday, immediately after divine service ended in the forenoon of the same day unto the churchwardens of West Buckland aforesaid, at or upon the communion table of the church of West Buckland, and the mother in the like manner to pay sevenpence weekly. That the father and mother should upon one or several Sundays within two months, after the first lesson upon some Sunday or Sundays in the parish church where he or she dwelleth, confess their fault and offence as aforesaid, heartily repenting the same with humble entreating the congregation then there assembled to pray God with them, etc. In default of so doing, he or she to be openly whipped.

13. At the Sessions of the Peace holden at Taunton in the County of Somerset, 28th day of June, 6 James I. [1608].

Whereas it was this day informed by George ffarewell, Esquire, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the county

of Somerset, being then present at the Sessions in open Court that the house of Correction in Taunton in the said county is much ruined and in great decay. And for that likewise it was then informed that a great part of the yearly pension due unto the Governor of the said house, together with some arrearages, are unsatisfied unto him. It is therefore ordered by the Justices of the Peace there assembled in open Sessions, that every Justice of the Peace in his limit shall procure the head constable to collect and gather the same, and forthwith to pay the same unto the Governor of the said house, for that the Governor of the said house hath likewise in open Sessions promised to bestow and lay out twenty nobles of that sum which is already due unto him, for and towards the repairing of the said house.

The hundred of Whitleigh do owe at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next the sum of £6. The hundred of Huntspill and Perryton do owe, etc., 35s. The Borough of Bridgwater do owe, etc., 6s. 8d. The hundred of Northpetherton do owe, etc., 30s. The hundred of North Curry do owe, etc., 6s. 8d. The Borough of Taunton do owe, etc., 10s. The hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane do owe, etc., 26s. 8d. The hundred of Canyington do owe, etc., 13s. 8d. The hundred of Andersfield do owe, etc., 13s. 4d. The hundred of Milverton do owe, etc., 13s. 4d. The hundred of Carhampton do owe, etc., 53s. 4d. The hundred of Williton and Free Manors do owe, etc., 50s. The tithing of Wivelscombe, being one of the four western tithings do owe 8s. 8d. The tithing of Bishops Lydeard do owe, etc., 3s. 4d. The tithings of Wellington and Buckland do owe, etc., 46s. 8d. Indorsed "an order for levying of money for the howse of Correccion in Taunton."

14. An order made at the General Sessions at Taunton, 28th June, 1608, that the matter between Elizabeth Hurman against Hugh Prince of Glaston, gent., in respect of an illegitimate child, should be inquired into by Sir John Rodney, knight, Mr. Doctor James, and Thomas Hughes, Esquire, betwixt this and the next Sessions.

15. Licence given by the Court to Peter Barbor, gent., plaintiff to common, compound, and agree to and with Richard

Crosse, defendant, upon an information exhibited against him, the said Peter Barbor, contrary to the form of the statute of the 5th year of Elizabeth, as provided for using the mystery or trade of a clothier, having not been brought up in the same by the space of seven years as an apprentice, so as the said informer do before the end of the next General Sessions of the peace of and for this County of Somerset to be holden, do and certify unto the Justices of the Peace of this County of Somerset, what fine or other consideration is by any means directly or indirectly he or any other for him had or is to have for the same cause, etc.

16. An order for sending back John Lyder from North Curry to the city of Bristowe, there to be relieved according to the law requiring, and in His Majesty's name charging and commanding all Constables, Tithingmen, and other officers, with all convenient speed to convey the said John Lyder from tithing to tithing the nearest and direct way unto Bristowe aforesaid, as you and every one of you will answer the contrary at your perils. [See number 38, Book III, i.]

17. Licence granted to John Jenkins of Haselbere [Haselbury] to build upon a plot of ground of one Henry Draper, etc., but the state of the same ground to be made unto such person as Sir John Portman and Sir Thomas Phelipps shall think fit.

18. An order made that Susan Avery, daughter of one Richard Avery of Enmore, husbandman, an apprentice with one Robert Shervy of Wellington, Weaver, who, by casual means, had became impotent and unable to labour, since which time of her impotency she hath for the recovery of her health been removed to the foresaid parish of Enmore, etc. And farther being of late sent home again to Wellington, hath been there accepted as a "vagarant" person, and "therehence" returned to the said parish of Enmore, etc., be forthwith remanded to the said parish of Wellington, there to serve her said apprenticeship or to be otherwise provided for, etc.

19. An order made by John ffrauncis and Humfry Windham, Esquires, that Robert Stalleng, one of the constables of Lideard

Episcopi, who, as was vehemently suspected, wilfully suffered William Seaman, the reputed father of the child of one Agnes Holland, to escape being sent by mittimus to the "common gaoll," etc., should at his own proper charge keep and maintain the said child, etc., or otherwise at his election to pay 7*d.* a week to the overseers, until such time as the said Stalleng shall bring forth the said Seaman, etc.

20. At the General Sessions at Taunton, 28th June, 6 James I., it was ordered that Sir John Rodney, Knight, John Stocker and John May, Esquires, etc., do examine the cause and to certify what they think and whether the said [Richard] ffearc ought to continue at Wells or else to remain elsewhere.

21. At this Sessions upon the petition signed by twenty-one of the inhabitants of Moreland within the parish of North Petherton, that inasmuch as they were extraordinary charged with the reparation or maintenance of the sea wall [wale] adjoining to the River of Perrat containing two miles in length or thereabouts, and likewise with the reparation or maintenance of a wain-way within the said wall, as also with divers other banks and passages not only for the safeguard [sauegard] of themselves but for the defence of the rest of the inhabitants near adjoining, that they and every of them taking upon them these particular works might be freed from any other labour or work towards the reparation and amendment of all other ways within the same parish, etc. It was ordered that the further examination of this suit be referred unto Sir Nicholas Halswell, knight, and Robert Cuffe, esquier, etc.

22. Taunton, 6 James, 1608. Complaint having been made by the inhabitants of West Hatch that many frivolous actions and disturbances are moved and stirred up in the parish by Mr. Jeffery Smith, clerk, the cause was ordered to be referred to Sir John Portman, knight, for settlement, but if not then for him to certify at the next Sessions his opinion of the same.

23. Taunton, 1608. An order made that the Treasurer for the Hospitals of this County of Somerset should out of the collec-

tions forthwith pay unto the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers of the same County the sum of £10, etc., towards payment of the pensions, etc.

24. An order made at Taunton, 28th of June, 6 James I., that Robert Walter of Taunton, the reputed father of the child of Mary Taylor of Brodlenche in the County of Devon should stand to and perform such order as two of the Justices of the said County of Devon shall set down concerning the relief of the same child, etc.

25. An order that Robert Hop of Wynscombe, husbandman, should pay 2*d.* and that Robert Dower of the foresaid parish, husbandman, should pay 3*d.* a week towards the maintenance of the child of Johan Hix of Axbridge, etc.

26. On the complaint made against George Slade and Richard Tayler of East Chinnock by the parishioners and poor people there inhabiting, that the said Slade and Tayler had received the profits of certain lands given and belonging to the poor of the said parish and other charitable uses for the space of five years or thereabouts and had not yielded their accounts of the receipts as by the law they ought : It was ordered that Sir John Portman, Knight, Sir Thomas Phillipps, Knight, and Christofer Preston, Esquire, etc., shall call them to make a just account, etc. [See No. 35, *post.*]

27. 28th June, 1608. Petition by John Jenkins of Hassilber [Haselbury], who being a very poor man and not able to purchase any ancient cottage or tenement wherein he may make his abode, and yet of late recovering some small portions of monies to buy a plot of ground of some 20 foot in length and 12 foot in breadth in Hasilber aforesaid, etc., for permission to "erect some pore dwelling house for him and his familie" if his good friend one Henry Draper of the said village of Hassilber might have licence so to do to permit your said Orator to build upon a piece of ground of his there, etc.

28. The petition of Richard Averie of Enmer [Enmore] husbandman, stating that about the first year of the King's reign

that now is your poor Suppliant being a poor man then did for his better ease give and bestow freely unto one Robert Shurvye of Wellington, etc., weaver, the sum of £3 with the placing of your said Suppliant's daughter to be the said Shurvye's apprentice for nine years during all which term the said Robert Shurvy was to keep your said Suppliant's daughter in good and reasonable manner as an apprentice ought to be and accordingly the said Shurvye did keep and maintain your said Suppliant's daughter about four years and three-quarters of a year until that by the evil usage of the said Shurvy's wife made your said Suppliant's daughter lame and impotent in her feet. And then the said Shurvye not this contented did the 25th day of January last past, etc., procured and sent home unto your poor Suppliant his said daughter lame in a barrow, and from tithing to tithing, since which time your poor Suppliant more than his ability is able hath bestowed and paid for and towards the healing of his daughter about five pounds, and as yet the said Shervye doth most wrongfully detain and keep from your said Suppliant the said £3 given him as aforesaid in consideration whereof your poor Suppliant most humbly beseecheth your good Worships to take such Order herein as your good Worships shall think fit, etc. [See 29.]

29. Whereas Susan Avery being taken vagrant within this our parish of Wellington in the County of Somerset, and has been punished by us the Constables according to the law in that case. These are therefore to require you in His Majesty's name, that you convey her from Tithing to Tithing the ready way to Enmore where she was born. Whereof fail you not as you will answer the contrary. Given under our hands 25th day of January, 1607.

This party to be remanded unto Wellington there to be settled according to the law.

John Cadde and
Nicholas Becknell, Constables.

30. 29th June, 1608. Petition of the churchwardens (Robt. Bollefont, John Howe) and overseers (Gyles Gunston, Hugh ffarthinge, Thomas Slocombe and John Middleton) of Bishops

Lydeard asking that Robert Stallenge, one of the constables of Bishops Lydeard, be ordered to pay 7*d.* a week towards the maintenance of the child of Agnes Holland until he should bring forth the reputed father of the child William Seaman whom he Stallenge had allowed to escape from his custody. Order made.

31. Your poor orator John Bayly of Mochellney, etc., husbandman, etc., sheweth your good worships that upon the 28th day of December last had a horse with a load of salt travelling upon the highway towards the relief of himself his poor wife and six small children taken away by two bailiffs William Crocume and Humfry Spurll, his horse not standing still but leading, and your orator leading the horse in his hand, would not let him out of his hand ; whereupon the Bailiffs aforesaid did by their violence take the halter and did cut him off hand by the hand of your said orator and did beat him and break his head that the "bloud ded kume downe about his yeares," and yet not contented but did throw him down, and did beat him again most unconscionable justly to be proved.

And all this was done about a debt of 2*s.* 6*d.* owed to one Henry Democke of Lamport which debt was tendered unto him in court and out of court divers times before the suit commenced just to be proved and will not receive it but did indirectly and unknown to the party proceed and obtained a verdict in the county court against him your poor orator and brought the matter to 13*s.* 6*d.* and then took out a "levary" and did take the horse as aforesaid, and do as yet keep the horse and his loading also which was then worth £3 6*s.* 8*d.* or near thereabouts. And the debts as they did confess was but 13*s.* 7*d.* upon the leavrie but in court it was but 12*s.* 6*d.* the lack of which horse hath and is like to be the utter undoing of your orator his poor wife and children for ever unless some speedy remedy may be had by your good worships and in so doing our poor orator with his wife and children shall be bound to pray for your good worships all and all yours in this world and in the world to come heavenly felicity.

32. A petition to the Justices of the Peace assembled at the Sessions of the Peace holden at Taunton, etc., from the small

part of the inhabitants of Morland in the parish of North Petherton, etc., that whereas your suppliants do dwell near to Murland sea wall and are chargeable yearly with the maintaining of the said wall from Colestile unto the house of John Templer containing in length about two miles and likewise we do maintain a wain way within the said wall. And that also we do maintain the bank of the said river from a house called Keeme house unto Skadsgatt containing half a mile to our great charge and likewise we do maintain Hedd wall from Clyes Meade unto Balshmores bridge [brudge] containing in length three-quarters of a mile, and whereas also we are charged with the mending of some part of the causeway from Petherton Heathfield unto Read Bridge in the parish of North Petherton aforesaid. In consideration whereof your poor suppliants most humbly beseech your good worships that you will at this Sessions free us from the mending of the said causeway for that we are greatly and every year more chargeable with the amending of the said walls" etc.

Signed by 22 of the inhabitants; Referred to Sir Nicholas Halswall and Mr. Cuff.

33. A petition signed by the more part of the parishioners of the parish of Westhatch that "whereas Mr. Jeffery Smithe as he saith is vicar of Westhatch as aforesaid, threateneth your said suppliants with process and suits and molesteth us with suits and is a disturber of his neighbours and will not be contented with his tithes due and accustomed to be paid and with threatening words puteth his said neighbours in fear so that by no means we can be quiet by him. In consideration whereof your suppliants most humbly beseech your good worships to take such order for us as your good worships shall think fit" etc.

Referred to Sir John Portman.

34. A petition by John Runnye of Queene Cammell unto the Right Worshipful Mr. Charles Brooke, Esquior, and the rest of the Justices in general at this present Sessions holden at Taunton stating that he was lately by Worshipful Mr. Maurice Gylbert (before his death) licensed and "authorised" for the keeping and continuing of a victualling house in Queene Cammell aforesaid as by his letter directed unto the said Worshipful Mr.

Charles Brooke to that effect etc. And although the said John Runnye were thus licensed yet he little suspecting the death of the said Mr. Maurice Gilbert so suddenly to approach took no articles at the present time of his licensing being deferred by the said Worshipful Mr. Gilbert until another time in which said time it pleased God that the said Mr. Gylbert died, etc.

Mr. John Younge, gent, and twenty-three with many others being inhabitants and neighbours unto the said John Runnye have thought good to certify that we have "known" the said house wherein the said John Runnye now dwelleth for the space of this forty years and upwards always in that time to have been licensed and allowed for a victualling house and that the people heretofore as also the said John Runnye to be of very good and honest behaviour and very fitting for that place maintaining good and "holsom victualls" with very clean and sufficient lodging as well for passengers or wayfaring men as also for the relieving and supplying of the wants and necessities of divers of the poor neighbours there inhabiting.

35. The humble petition of the parishioners and poor of East Chinnock to the Right Worshipful Sir John Portman, Knight, and the rest of the King's Majesty's Justices at the Sessions at Taunton, etc., that whereas there is belonging to the relief of the poor and other charitable uses within our parish of East Chinnock aforesaid as much lands as is worth per annum £3 or upwards and is yearly to be accounted [accompted] for by the collectors of the same but now so it is of late one Richard Tayler and George Slade have collected the profits thereof for the space of five years or thereabouts, and they hitherto most unjustly and wrongfully detain the same or the greatest part thereof in their own hands, that by means thereof divers of our poor weak aged and impotent people are like to famish in this great time of dearth unless your good worships take present course for reformation thereof, etc.

Asking that the said Taylor and Slade may be compelled to yield up their accounts to the rest of the parishioners, etc., or else to take such course with them as to your Worships shall be thought most fit and convenient. Signed by ten of the inhabitants.

Referred to Sir John Portman, Sir Thos. Phelipps and Christopher Preston, Esquire, or any two of them.

36. A note of such poor people as are to be relieved within Eastchinnocke.

Robt. Whyte and his wife, aged 80 years or thereabouts.

Joane Illary, near [neere] 80 years old, a lame woman.

Mary Hellen and her child, a sick woman.

Barbary Tayler, widow, and her four children.

Robt. Slade and his wife, aged 67 years.

Joane Watercome, a lame woman.

Alce Snow, 60 years old.

Henry Pollard, 60 years old or upwards.

Thomas Coker and his wife, 80 years old.

37. Petition of William Kingsberry of Taunton stating that there had been some matter in controversy between him and one Henry West of Saint James near Taunton, for some years past, at which time the cause was before the Worshipful Mr. George farwell, Esquire, etc.; and the said West referring the matter unto Mr. farwell whom finding the matter so that it did abound more of malice than anything to the contrary, it pleased his Worship so to decide it as every man should be at his own charge, since which time the said West being a very clamorous man and troublesome giveth out that he will have process for your poor Suppliant, and further with many threats putteth him in fear, so that your poor suppliant standeth greatly in doubt of his oppression, being a very poor man, and by no means able to defend the law. In tender consideration whereof may it please your good Worship to take such order with the said West as his Majesty's poor subjects may be eased of and from his tyranny [terrany], being threatened by the said West that he will pull him in by the nose, and your suppliant as most bound shall dutifully pray for your Worship's eternal happiness.

fiat warr. pro bono gestu.

38. Petition of Bettrice Powne for a new warrant of good behaviour against Silvester Welshman and Walter Couch, being then constable and tithingman of Williton in the parish of

St. Decumans, for not appearing at this said Sessions, etc. The said constable and tithingman (as your suppliant thinketh) willingly and wittingly suffered one John Durborrowe, who was charged with certain offences and misdemeanors with her daughter Agnes to escape from them.

Fiat warrant p. bono gestu.

39. To the Right Worshipfuls the King's Majesty's Justices of the Peace assembled at this Sessions, etc.

In most humble manner sheweth unto your good worships, your Suppliants the Church Wardens and Overseers of the poor of the parish of St. James near Taunton in the county aforesaid, that whereas we have made a Rate upon the parishioners for the relief of our poor and impotent people, which rate so made by us the said parishioners do think themselves over burthened. And yet notwithstanding the said Rate is not able to relieve the one-half of them ; they do so fast increase and daily come upon us for relief, wherefore we most humbly beseech your good worships to take some speedy order for the said poor's relief, and we as duty boundeth will daily pray to Almighty God for your good worships' long health and especially with increase of worship.

This cause is referred to the consideration of the Justices of that division or any of them.

[Indorsed "The petition of the prsh. of St. James."]

40. To the King's Majesty's Justices at Bridgwater Session, etc. The certificate of the overseers and churchwardens of Wedmore stating that William Letheatt, the reputed father of a child called William, son of one Margery Chalcroft, had given sufficient security for discharging the parish of Wedmore aforesaid from all charge concerning the keeping and maintenance of the said child, etc. 20th September, 1608.

41. Complaint by George Kirlé of Oath within the parish of Awler [Aller] to Mr. John Pyne with the rest of this Worshipful Bench at this present Sessions holden at Bridgwater, against William Poacocke of Curry Rivell, as it should seem overgone with ale, for beating and quarrelling with one Humphrie Bartherum at Langport, etc., with many outrageous threatenings and swaggering vowed to feather his coat, etc.

42. A certificate signed by 21 of the inhabitants of the parishes of Ashbrittle and Stawleigh, addressed to Humfrey Wyndham, esquier, one of His Majesty's Justices, etc., certifying that the bearer hereof, Alexander Harte, late of Ayshebryttell and now dwelling within the parish of Stawleighe, during his abode in Ayshebryttell (which hath been ever from a child), hath been of honest conversation and ever well demeaned himself there, and behaved himself in quiet sort, except in a matter of variance touching seats in the church and rates for the same, and also for the King, which concerned his own right and the rest of the parish. [See No. 62 *post*.]

43. The Churchwardens and Overseers of Luccombe to the Justices at the Bridgwater Sessions notifying the fact that Charles Webber of Luccombe, "Milner," who had been bound over by Mr. John Trevillian and Mr. George Luttrell, Esquires, to acquit and discharge the parishioners of Luccombe from the maintenance of a child called by the name of Julian, had given a good bond according to the order, etc. Dated at Luccomb the 18th of September, 1608.

44. A notice from the Clerk of the Peace of Axbridge, John Whiting, to the Justices of the Peace at Bridgwater Sessions that the bearer Robert Mylekarde (?) of Wynscombe (but in the order named Robert Hooss (?)), had entered into a bond to pay to the overseers of the poor of Axbridge 2*d*. weekly for the maintenance of a child of one Johan Hycks (?) according to your worship's order made at Taunton Sessions last, etc. Dated this 20th day of September, 1608.

45. Letter dated Bristol, 17th September, 1608, from Sir George Snygge (2nd Baron of the Exchequer) to the right worshipful my very loving friends his Majesty's Justices of the Peace at the next quarter Sessions holden for the county of Somerset, stating that he was of opinion that the inhabitants of the parish of Backwell had not the peculiar right of choosing a Constable for the hundred of Bedmyster cum Hartcliffe, but that it hath been sometimes exercised by men of other places within that hundred.

This matter is referred to be tried by the course of the Common Law and the constable now sworn to do his Majesty's service until by law he be removed.

46. An account of moneys paid and received. Lewis Blackmore and Mudford.

48. Inquisition for the Lord the King taken at Wells, 6th day of August 6 James I. by the oath of Richard Bisse, Henry ffoster, Humphry Palmer, John Hardwich, Thomas Wilmott, Anthony Attwell, Richard Attwell, Richard Goodall, Robert Lane, John Yard, Robert Creese, William Attwell, and Thomas Stokes, before John Rodney, Knt., ffancis James, Doctor of Law, and Thomas Hughes, Esquire, relating to a trespass upon lead-mining rights upon Mendipp in Wells Forum.

62. Letter from Emanuel Maply of the parish of Cleyhanger dated May 23, 1608, to a Justice of the Peace. "Sirre being informed by divers of the parish of Stawley of the troublesome and contentious carriage of Alexander Hart and his daily opposition against the order by me set down for the quiet ordering of the seats of that church and the peace thereunto belonging, etc., that John Gover should not in any case enjoy any benefit of the new erected seats without a consideration of 40s. fine by him set down as may be more particularly appear by a schedule hereunto annexed, sent unto me under his hand at such time as I was to end the business of the seats with the 'condiscent' of both parties, etc." [Mr. Blackaller the minister of Stawleigh].

**S. R., VOL. IV, EPIPHANY SESSIONS,
WELLS, 1608-9.**

100. At the General Sessions at Wells, Tuesday next after the Feast of the Epiphany, 1608-9.

That an examination of the complaint by John Palmer and other the inhabitants of the parish of Emborough are overburthened by an unequal rate in collecting ordinary payments for the

service of his Majesty and the County be referred unto Sir Barnabe Samborne, Knight, John Stocker and ffrauncis Baber, Esquires.

101. Ordered the same Sessions that Edith Rawlings of Mashbery, widow, who had "of late sustained great loss by fire to her utter undoing" be paid 40s. by the Treasurer of Hospitals.

102. Whereas at this Sessions it hath been informed by the parishioners of the parish of Charlton that a great charge is like to ensue on them by the marriage of one John Lockyer with one Annis Macy lately gotten with child in the service of one Beniamyne Maunsell and supposed by the indirect practice of the said Maunsell to be married unto the said Lockyer a poor and impotent fellow, the examination whereof is referred unto Sr. Barnabe Sambourne, Knight, John Stocker and ffrauncis Baber, Esqrs. etc.

103. A complaint having been heretofore made that the Owners and Landlords of the "demeanes of Keinsham Abbey" have not nor at this present do not pay their equal and just part towards the composition for the provision of his Majesty's house, nor unto tithing rates, etc. And forasmuch as it appeareth to the Justices, etc., that the tithing of Keinsham hath 1,700 acres or thereabout and that the Demeanes of Keinsham Abbey hath 1,100 acres or thereabouts, wherein (albeit) there is a great difference in quantity of ground, yet in regard to Keinsham Abbey grounds are conceived to be the better, and more fruitful, etc. It was ordered that from thenceforth they should be equally rated, etc. Divers landowners within Keinsham Hundred not contributing nor paying anything towards the rates, etc., it was therefore ordered that they should pay their equal part in such manner as the other owners and other landlords do within the same hundred, etc.

(Signed) Maur Barkeley, John Portman, Nich. Halswell, Jo. Rodney, John Haryngton, Edw. Hext, Bar. Samborne.

104. An order upon the petition of one Johane Pennell of Axmouth, Devon, Spinster, that a warrant of good behaviour

shall be awarded against one Augustine Jefferies of the city of Wells, the reputed father of her child, to appear at the next General Sessions of the peace for Somerset, etc. [Undated.]

105. An order for a warrant of the good behaviour to be awarded against Richard Nurcombe, the reputed father of the child of Gartrid Doodridg of Wotten Courteny, co. Somerset, at the next General Sessions for disobeying an order of George Luttrell and John Trevyllian, Esquiers, and to find sureties for the observing of the order certified as aforesaid by the said Mr. Luttrell and Mr. Trevyllian.

106. An order for the committal to the common "Gayle" of John Elseworth of Wotton "Cowrtency," the reputed father of a child of Mary Eemes of the same place, for obstinately and sullenly refusing to perform an order made against him by Sir John Wyndham, Knt., George Luttrell and John Trevyllian, Esquiers, there to remain until he should find good sureties to perform the said order [Undated].

107. Keynsham Bridge. An order made at the General Sessions at Wells the Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany 1608-9 that the matter of raising money for the reparation of the Bridge of Keynsham which "hathe ben of late in greate decaye" shall be referred to Sir John Harrington and Barnaby Samborne, Knights, John Stocker, Francis Babor and John Addams, Esquiers, five of the Justices or to any three of them, etc.

108. An order made for the yearly payment out of the parishes of Long Sutton xx^s, Kingsdon xx^s, Awler xx^s, Ivelton xx^s to be paid quarterly, towards the relief of the poore of the town of Somerton, the inhabitants of which are so much overburthened with impotent and distressed poor people as the said town and parish cannot relieve and maintain the same without their overgreat and intollerable charge, etc., the first yearly payment of the said yearly "pension" to begin at the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady next coming [the same Sessions].

109. An order made at the same Sessions for referring the question of the paternity of a child of Johan. Leachland of ffitzhead, of whom John Cade of ffitzhead was "accused" to be the reputed father, should be referred unto Sir ffrauncis Popham, Knight, John ffrauncis, Humfry Wyndham and James Clark, Esquiers, etc., and certificate of their proceedings therein to be made at the next General Sessions, etc.

110. Certificate of Francis Baber and John Stocker, Esqres., dated 10th January, 1608, under an order made at Wells Sessions last touching a rate for the payments for his Majesty's service within the parish and tithing of Stanton Pryor and Willmington, etc., which said cause was referred unto William Plumleie and William Blanchard from the bench at the said Sessions being gentlemen indifferently chose, etc. Approving what Wm. Plumleie and William Blanchard had done in the premises, etc.

The survaye of the mannor of Staunton Pryor in the possession of the Inhabitants there by an auntient Survaye amounteth to the sum of 831 acres. And the common called the Burye the unto belonging is 60 acres at the least accordinge to or former Certificate.

Summary total 891 acres, etc. The particulars of the rest of thinhabitantes of Staunton Pryor by the old Survaye w^{ch} we by or vewe cannot much contradict to be as follows, etc.

And whereas Wm. Richman this complainant is charged by that Svaye 270 acres and for one other Tenement of his possession 66 acres. We find the said ffarme by measure as we are informed to be 214 and that other Tenement in his possession to be 53 acres summ total 267 acres, etc.

The pticulars of the mannor of Willmington to be by the measure as we have formerly certified 413 acres. Whereof there is in the possession of Mr. Champneis for his ffarme 270 acres. And amongst the rest of the Inhabitants there is we are informed as followeth, etc.

Willm. Plumlyes
Willm. Blancharde.

Letter dated Bath 29 June, 1608, from Messrs. Plumly and Blanchard "To the Worshipp^{ll} Mr. John Stocker, and Mr. ffruncs Babor, Esquiers geue these."

Indorsed—Mr. Blanchards and Mr. Plumlies Certificat betweene Ritcheman et Chamnies.

The order made at the General Sessions at Wells 13th of January, 1607-8, referring this matter to William Plumbley of Newton St. Lowe, gent, and William Blanchard of Catterne, gent, etc.

Edw. White.

111. Upon the humble petition of the inhabitants and parishioners of Midsomer Norton, etc., as well concerning a base child left upon the charge of the said parishioners, etc., whereof one Edward James of Midsomer Norton is the reputed father. As also for that divers cottages are erected and builded up within the said parish of Midsomer N. in which are placed divers and many tenants and undertenants people very poor of lewd disposition which do much offend and annoy the inhabitants of the same parish by breaking of their hedges and other misdemeanors. And whereas likewise they inform that one Richard Sheppard hath lately brought out of Ireland an "auld woman and 3 children," and is now resident within the said parish and very like to be a great charge to the inhabitants thereof. It is this day thought fit and so ordered that Sir Bar. Samborne Knight, Mr. F. Stocker and Mr. ffr. Babor, Esqres., etc., shall call the parties offending before them, etc.

112. Whereas it appeareth by credible proof that George Mylles of Minehead hath sustained great loss by sea, the consideration of whose cause is likewise under his Majesty's Great Seal of England referred to the charitable consideration of his Majesty's subjects within the county of Somerset and Devon. It is therefore at this Sessions ordered that six pounds shall be forthwith paid unto the said Mylls within this county of Somerset, whereof three pounds by the Treasurer of the hospitals of the easter division of this county and iij^{li} more by the Treasurer of the hospital of the wester division of the county. And therefore the said George Mylls be thereby concluded without making any farther collection by virtue of his said letters patents within the county of Somerset.

SESSIONS ROLLS. BOOK VI, 1609-1610.

1. A letter from John Hartgill, dated from Culmington April 24th, 1609. "To the wor^{ll} his approued good frend Mr. John ffarewell at his house in Holebrooke these be d^d," respecting the child of Katherine Millard of the parish of Killmington.

2. Notice from "John Hartgill, William Combe, George Edwards minister, John More, Henry Smart, William Clement ou'seers" inhabitants of Kyllmington informing the Bench that all such matters as shall be "objected" against Robert Henstridge late of Kyllmington, Taylor, had been settled between them. Dated Kyllmington 25th of April, 1609.

3. Letter from "Tho : Hughes." "To the Right Worshipfull my assured good ffrend Mr. John Pyne, esquier, of Ilchester, etc.

Good Sr, with my kindest salutations, etc. My good Neighbor, the bearer hereof Mr. Palmer, One of o^r now constables of this town, was bound over the last Sessions to answer at these, unto such matters as you are acquainted withall. I pray you Sr do him what favor law and Justice permitteth : wherein if my urgent business else whither, had permitted my attendance there, I would have joined with you for the speedier "dispatche," and (if law so required) delivery of him.

Upon presentment before Sr John Rodney, Doctor James and my self at a "Pettie" Session, one Walter Withers of Pilton was presented for a tipler without licence, "a man verie malapert, sawcie and obstinate," who hath been often suppressed and warned from his unlawful tippling, but withstanding continueth refractory and incorrigible against Justice. He hath confessed his offence before me, and that he hath no licence but would justify himself by quilllets and evasions. If Sr John Rodney be there he can "enforme" you both of the man and of his

manners, and how far any officer shall "swarue" from Justice that shall "swarve" from his punishment. So ending with the same salutations as I began, I leave you to God's blessings and your own best wishes. "Welles this moneday the 24th of Aprill 1609. Yo^r verie assured loving freind."

Sealed with a coat of arms—quarterly.

4. Letter from y^r very loving ffrynd Jo: Couper written from Powdelton the xxⁱst of April, 1609. To the right Worshipful my very loving "ffrynds" S^r Edward Phillipps, S^r Edward Hyck, Knights, Mr. Humffry Waldron, Mr. John Pyene Esq^s and to the rest of the Bench of this Sessions.

"I have been earnestly intreated by this bearer Willm. Greegorye now servant unto me at Powdelton that I would certify vnto you touching sixteen sheep that were his own sheep, which for him in this hard winter past by one John Walden were put forth to lease and keeping until Midsummer last past unto one Willm. Goodland for the 'lamms' to be unto the said Goodland the wool and sheep to Gregory. But contrary to agreement Goodland doth shear the sheep and put them in his own mark and sold away the wool. Upon which communication had by Gregory in the presence of Walden with Goodland, Gregory bargained and sold the said xvi sheep to Goodland for sixteen nobles, to be paid at Mr. Gybbs his house at Perrot on All-saints' Day last by xij of the clock after which time the payment not performed Gregory by Mr. Leonard Wested (?) attorney put Goodland in suit of law, which being prosecuted by him Goodland hath arrested Walden of suspicion of felony, being a trick, and device of cunning to defraud the poor man of the money he is to pay him. I am ascertained by Mr. Geo. Savidge of Bloxsford (?) a very honest 'Jent,' whom he served of the honesty of this bearer, as also for John Walden that he is a very honest man, as also by sufficient testimony that the sheep mentioned were the very proper goods of Gregory and had been in keeping before with Mr. He. Savidge. The truth in this cause I have no doubt, but in wisdoms ye would have laid open notwithstanding have made bold to write unto ye. And so with my very loving commandates I do refer you to thal-mighty's protection.

5. Somst Ano Dom. 1608. Release acquittance and discharge given to the father of an illegitimate child, which child had since died, by the overseers of Charlton Musgrove and signed by them, the clergyman of the parish, the two churchwardens and four other parishioners.

6. The Humble petition of John Nurse to Sr Edward Phillips, Sr Thomas Phillips, Sr Edward Hext, Knights, John Pyne, Alexander Ewens, Esquires, with all the rest of the Worshipful his Majesty's Justices, etc., stating that he had been falsely accused of being the father of a child by one Joane Hackinges of this town of Evelchester, etc., "refaringe" my self with the premises unto to your Worship's consideration as duty bindeth me with my prayers unto God for Worship long lives with much increase of Worship in this World and in the World to come "Heavenlye Joyes."

7. A warrant signed and sealed by Edward White, Clerk of the Peace, for the committal of Hugh Treble to Gaol "for a contempt offered unto the Court at Wells Sessions last 1608."

8. Letter dated from Hestercombe this xvth (?) of April, 1609, written by "yor louinge ffreynd Jo. Warre to Mr. White."

I pray let this bearer be "dispatched" of his business at Evelchester being bound over for his appearance at the instance of his brother, etc.

"To his Lovinge ffrynd Mr. Edward White the Clarcke of the Peace in the County of Somst."

9. A certificate signed by John Kinge sen., Constable, Hughe Allyn and John Burt, Churchwardens, John Toms, tythingman, John Cox sen., John Cox Jn. and Raulpe Kinge of Wanstrow, addressed to Justices at the Quarter Sessions at Ilchester in accordance with "A statute made for allowing a 'typler' in every parish needful for the poor of the same parish and other passengers travelling or going through, certifying that the bearer

Thomas Allyn of our parish of Wanstrowe, we the inhabitants of the said place do find him to be a very meet and fit man as also the house like wise where he now doth 'recide' and have likewise used typlinge there by the space of three years being lawfully licensed thereunto. Wherefor we whose names are under written of the parish do earnestly entreat your worships etc. that the aboved named Thomas Allyn may have a farther grant of his licence, etc. Wanstrow the 25th of this month."

10. "A certificate from diſſe of the Inhabitants of the towne of Wellington on the behalfe of John Weaver to his Ma^{ty} Justices of Peace within the Countie of Somſet."

A certificate from divers of the Inhabitants of Wellington, etc.

Whereas John Weaver, alias Tucker of Wellington aforesaid, having great resort unto his house, especially on Thursdays, being market days there, being therefore desirous to be admitted to brew ale there, for the better provision of His Majesty's subjects that do and shall come and repair to his house as well on the said market days as other times, and having often desired our certificate of his good behaviour and honest conversation hoping to obtain this his said request and suit the rather we the inhabitants and parishioners of Wellington aforesaid, whose names are subscribed do hereby signify unto your worships that we have known the said John Weaver alias Tucker from his youth hetherto, to be an honest man and born in Wellington aforesaid, and that during his dwelling and abode there he hath behaved and demeaned himself in good and honest sort, and also that he hath from time to time since he became a married man and "hoseholder" been of a good conversation and governed his house in good order and therefore do think him a fit and mete man to keep brewing and selling of drink in his house, and withall do pray and desire your worships on his behalf to grant him leave and licence so to do, according to His Majesty's laws and statutes in that case provided. And even leaving the premises to your good discretions do "humblly take" our leaves Wellington the xxijth of April, 1609.

Yor w^{rs}. during their lives to command Peter Callwey

Constable, Nicholas Becknell, Portreeve, Roger Medre, churchwarden, William Best, churchwarden.

11. "To the Right Woorshipfulls his Maties Justices w^{thin} in the Countie of Somers^t."

"Lamentably Complayneth vnto your good Woorships John Kayford of ffrome your poore orator, Signifyinge, that whereas in Lammas assizes last past, there was a tryall betwene Edmonde Leversadge of Vallis Esquire pt, and Henry Cottingtō gent def concernynge a trespas Comitted by the said Cottington upon certayne land w^t Cottington holdeth of the said Edmond Leversadge, And because the attorney fayled the Name of the land wherein the trespas was done yt fell to an nonsuit, where vpon in Michellmas terme last, Judgemt and Execution was Awarded against your poore orator, and the Haward of the said Edmond Leversadge your poore orator, being sent by the said Edmonde Leversadge to see the distres taken and Impounded by the Haward. By vertue of w^c Execution your poore orator was taken About the xxth of January, And Ever sithens hath ben In prison, But may it please your woorships the said Edmond Leversadge by one Willm. Waylond, his under bayly of ffrome, About a Moneth past dide send Sixe pounds thertyne shillings And fovre pence w^{ch} was the some in the Execution Mencioned to be paid by hym vnto Mr. Browne wth a Letter to hym concerning the chargs, the said Waylond came to the prison And in the hyringe of the gent and other there prisoners, said that he had brought the Money to discharge the Execution, But yf your poore orator were any thinge in debt, he should lye for that, to w^c your poore oratō Made this Awnswere. I owe Nothinge for my dyet, but that w^c ys due vnto Mr. Browne for my logginge And the house, where vpon the said Waylond went out of the prison, And did not pay the Money vnto Mr. Browne nor delyver Mr. Leversadges Letter. What he did w^t the said Money your poore orator knoeth not, But supposinge he hath converted the same to his owne vse, By w^c Meanes your poore orator hath ben here in prison Ever sithence w^{out} any maintenance, And almost famyshed, Had not the Charitable Good Wylls of some of the gent there in prison spared your poore orator Money to buy hym fud, these premises Considered

your poore orator Most humbly besecheth your Woorships in your tender Mercies to have compacoñ vpon your said orator And to save hym from famishmt, By vertue of your auctorities to call the said Waylond before your Woorships And to take order w^t hym, to satisfye the Money vnto Mr. Browne delyverred him for the Leaving of the said Execution, and, such other charges as your poore orator hath ben dryven vnto because he payd not the same as he was appointed by the said Edmond Leversadge, To answer that nothing can be don vnls the pty bee in Town and may bee brought, Wherein your Woor: shall both please God doo Justice, And for Ever bynd your poore orator to pray vnto God for your Woor: preservacons in contynewall health, heavenly Joy and Eternall felicitie."

12. Letter written 25th of April, 1609, by W. Gybbes. "To the right Wor^{ll} my very loving Brother Sr. Edward Hext Knight," respecting a notorious varlett dwelling at North perrot in Somstshire, whose name is John Partridge, a "ffustian-weaver," son of one Partridge, an honest husbandman there, etc.

13. The humble petition of George Grinham of the parish of Norton under Hampton, "in ye behalfe of himselfe, his poore wife and famelye," for permission "for my building y^{er} of a little poore house for ye comfort of my selfe, my poore wife and children betwixt those other 2 poore houses erected on the glebe there about some twenty years ago," etc., "being a towne borne childe y^{er} myselfe," etc. Licence granted.

14. The xxth day of April, 1609. To All Christian People to whome thesse psentes shall Come Greeting. Whereas the Bearer hereof, John Phelpes of Chillcomptoun, in the Countie of Som^rsett, was Apprehended vpon Suspicion of Takinge of stale of Bees from Mydsom^r Norton vppon the viijth Day of January last past. Knowe ye that we whosse names are herevnto subscribed Do Certife yo^r wors [worships] that the saide John Phelpes was at Phillippes Norton in the Countie Aforesaid, at the Inn called the George, the said viijth Day of January, and did lodge there the same nyght and allso was ther the viiith Day of January, being the next day and the night allso and the ixth.

Allso vppon the true Certificate hereof we all are Ready at yo^r wo^{rs} pleassurers to be Sworne.

Your Wo^{rs} Servantes,

(Signed) Richard Tovy.

(Signed) Robart R. H. Hackett.

(Signed) William V. Vincent.

(Signed) John S. Hill.

15. An application to Sir John Portman, Knt., Sir John Rodney, Knt., Sir Edward Hixe, Knt., Mr. John Pine, Esquier, and the rest of the Justices at the quarter Sessions at Ivelchester, signed by the vicar (Geoferie Underwood), "the collectors of the poor," "churchwardens," and others inhabitants of the parish of Eu^rcrich, for permission for a poor parishioner of ours, one William Hillier being born in the parish, to build him a house without laying out of four acres of ground unto it on a certain "plat" of ground belonging to one John Pennie of Eu^rcrich, being a freeholder.

16. Letter dated this 25th of April, 1609, written by John Peers Constable of the town of Chard (who through God's visitation had not been of long time, neither now am by any means able to travel unto Your Worships for relief of our said town in this behalf), and addressed "To the righte Wor^{ll}, his Ma^{ties} Justices at this presente Sessions Assembled," respecting two "base children" wherewith "our Towne standeth burthened." Sealed with the seal of the town of Chard.

17. The humble petition of Nicholas Hilliar of Taunton, Hosier, to Sir John Portman and the rest of the Justices, stating that he had answered a cause before Sir John Portman twelve months sithence; that he agreed with his adversary and rested only in controversy the payment of 3s. 4d. unto Mr. Whitt, the Clerk of the Peace dwelling in Bridgwater, unto whom the matter was referred by Mr. George ffarrow, his worship, About some 14 days sithence, was taken by the officers of Bridgwater and committed and yet lieth in most miserable extremity, and like to starve with hunger, Upon which cause his adversary brought forth "green wax" and arrested his surety, etc. Humbly craveth for his "Enlargement

as may seem most convenient to your Worshipful likings, whereby he shalbe bound Dayly to pray for yo^r worl: full Estats in all prosperytie and Eternall felicitye."

18. A letter written and dated at Wells 25th April, 1609, by ffran: James and addressed "to my very good freind and kinsman Mr. Edward White, Clark of the peace at Ilchester," stating that he had sent inclosed a recognizance for the appearance of James Bisse whom I have bound to his good behaviour for "verie fowle and great misdeamo^{rs} against his wife. But since by my meanes they are well reconciled," etc., "I think fitt that he should now bee discharged. Other recognizances I have any att this tyme, neither canne bee present at this sessions beeing (if God will) this day or to morrow morning to ride towards London uppon necessary busines. And wth my very hartly Commendacons I betak you to the mercifull tuition of thalmightye," etc. Yo^r assured Loving freind and kinsman" etc.

19. A warrant signed and sealed by Edw. White, Clerk of the Peace, for apprehension of John Bristowe late of Preston in the County of Somerset. Dated at the Epiphany Sessions at Wells, 6 James I.

20. Be it knowen to all men by these p^{rs}ents y^t Marie the wife of Griffine Carter of Wornall als Wormmald in the Countie of Bucks, carpinter, died and was buried at Wornall als Wormmall aforesaide the 30 daye of Marche in the yere of our Lorde god, according to the computacon of the church of Englande one thowsande sixe hundreth and seaven as there did appeare by the register booke of the saide towne of Wornall als Wormmall. In wittenesse whereof wee the Inhabitaunts of the saide towne of Wornall als Wormmall have sett to this testimoniall our names the thirtieth daye of September Anno dno. 1608 viz. :—

Ricardus Ingbie, vicar ibm.
 Tho: Tipping, sen. } Gardians.
 Richarde Tippinge }
 Richarde Seire pishe clarke who
 sealed her in the grave.
 Gryffyn Cartor.

21. The humble petition of John Lake of Milton in the county of Dorset "to the Right Worshipful Sr Edward Phelipps Knight, and one of the Kings Maties Sergeants at law" respecting a debt secured by a bond given to him by Robert Hill of Mells, tucker, and who after he had been apprehended by the warrant of Mr. Horner escaped through the negligence of Thomas Geffry, constable of Mells "And your suppliant perceiving the Constable not doing his office therein complained to Mr. Stocker one of the Justices of this county, which constable undertook before the said Mr. Stocker that he the said Hill should be and appear at the Sessions to answer the same but herein doth make default. May it therefore please your good worship etc. to take such order with the Constable and sayd Hill as to yo^r worshipp shalbe thought most fitt and convenient," etc.

22. The humble petition of Anthonie Hendborowe. "May it please yo^r good Worships etc. Anthonie Hendborowe your poor Suppliant (at the last Assizes holden at Chard) produced as a witness on the part and behalf of one Henry ffausett, plaintiff and Edward Barbour, defendant (who is son-in-law unto one John Cade of Fitzhead) before the R^t Honorable Sr Lawrence Tanfield, Knight, Lord Chief Baron of his Majesty's Exchequer, and there being examined by the Lord Chief Baron touching the said cause between the said parties ; the said John Cade was thought to be a maintainer of the said suit ; whereupon the said Lord Chief Baron demanded where the said Cade was ; Your Worships poor Suppliant answered that the said Cade was present in the Court and that he was charged to be the father of three bastards by one woman. For which speeches (although they appear manifest to the world to be true) yet notwithstanding the said John Cade of his malice doth vex molest and continually ever sythence the said Assizes trouble the said Anthonie your worships poor Suppliant in the Lord Bishop's Court at Wells to the utter overthrow and impoverishing of your poor distressed Suppliant unless he may be by this honorable Bench relieved. In tender consideration of the premises your poor Orator doth humbly intreat your Worships to take some course herein agreeable to equity and justice that your poor Suppliant may be

freed out of the said Spiritual Court, and no more troubled concerning the said suit," etc.

23. Letter from "Your loveing freind John Adams" "To my loveing freind Mr. Edward White, Clerk of the peace in the County of Somst."

"Mr. White, I pray Retorne in this Recognizance ffor me : I am not well haueing the passas of an ague : And therefore cannot be at the Sessions as I intended : I haue Received six Roles of Courte Rolls for you. I thinke you have not sent me all back : you haue not sent me my note : I comend me to you and doe end

Bradfields Downe 24 April, 1609."

24. Letter from Thomas Horner of Cloford, the 22nd of April, 1609, to the justices at Ilchester Sessions stating that he had been informed by divers of the inhabitants within the Hundred of ffrome, that this bearer Richard Atthayes (being last year one of the Constables of that hundred), hath sythence the last Sessions held at Wells, "resatisfyed" the several Tythings within the same hundred, of such overplus money as collected in the time of his office. I do assure myself this will be a sufficient warning to him and others that shall succeed him, etc.

25. A petition to the Justices at the General Sessions holden at Ivelchester the 20 of this instant April, 1609, signed by Geo. Luttrell, John Treuelyan, William Harryson and eleven others, inhabitants of the hundreds of "Carhampton and Willington and free manors" to mitigate and stay such "merssments," and to give them till "alhallouetid" next to repair Mould bridge which "lyethe neere the full sea marcke, which was founderd and borne away in the laste great flood, w^{ch} is adiustedlie and carfully to be set vp againe by the inhabitants of bothe the said hundreds," etc.

26. A letter from Langport this p^rsent 22th of April, An^o 1609, written by "y^{or} ever Loving ffreind to Commaund Edward ffrye, Mason," "To his very good ffreind Mr. White, the Clarke

of the Peace for the Countye of Somst or in his abcence to Mr. Lawrence Drake, his brother in lawe," etc.

"Mr. White theise are to certyfie you that wh̄as Thomas Swayne of Sevington Marie, standeth indicted for a sartayn disorder supposed against him to be committed by him agaynst me. Sr it is soe that for my pte yf therbe noe other matter against him, lett then this my letter be a sufficient Testimonye that for my pte I have nothing to object agaynst him at all but Does by these pnts [presents] acquit and dischargd him for any matter concerning my selfe."

27. A notice from Sir Thomas Phelippes, Knight, to the Sheriff, that Edward Clavelsey of Pytney, yeoman, "hath come before me and hath found sufficiente Securitey for the keepinge of his Maties peace towards his Maties and all his leage people, and especially against Willm. Russell, (?) etc., Dated this xijth of March, 1608.

28. A notice from Gabriell Ludlowe "To the right Worshipfull Mr. Thomas Hughes, at his dwelling house at Wells," informing him that "whereas a warrant of the peace by my meanes hath beene granted against Richard Ellis, he to p̄vent the worst hath bounde over himselfe to answere the lawe, I vpon reasonable termes at our agreement have released him of that trouble," etc.

29. A letter from Tho: Hughes to Mr. Edward White, Clerk of the peace for Somerset at Ilchester. "Good Mr. White, with my kindest Comendacons, etc., I have by this bearer sent vnto you halfe a crowne for the discharging of Richard Ellis of the peace, whome I have bound thither at the suite of Gabriell Ludloe, whoe as by his lre [letter] appeareth hath agreed with the said Ellis. The poore man is not able in respecte of some Daunger safely to make his appearance at the Sesss," etc.; yf therefore yo^r vse yo^r fauor towards him for his dischargd yo^r may doe the poore man a great pleasure. I have bound over one Walter Withers, a most pverse fellow for vnlawfull tipling, whome Sr John Rodney and myselfe haue often suppressed

but Can find noe conformitie in him; therefore I pray yo^r yf vpon his confession ther he be not aiudged and punished for his offence w^{ch} before me and his neighbours he hath confessed, and hath bin presented for the same, Then I pray yo^u lett him againe be bound over vntill the next sess^s wher I hope myself to be pnte and to procure such order against him as shall best befitt him. The bearer hereof, Mr. Palmer, one of the constables of this towne, whoe is to deliver yo^u the halfe crown for Ellis his fee hath occasion allsoe to appear at these sessⁿ; I pray you be a meanes aswell for his speediest dispatch as allsoe for his dischargd yf it may be wth Justice. I have sent my recognizances by him vnto yo^u wheof I pray you take such care as the matter shall require. Soe wishing to yo^u as yo^u wishe to yo^r self, I bid yo^r right hartilie well to fare. Wells this 24th of Aprill, 1609. Your verie loving ffreind Tho: Hughes.

30. "The humble petisione of Yeadeth Haninge," "To the Right Wo^rshipfull Sr Edward Hix, Knight, etc." "In most humble manner complayninge vnto y^{ou} good w^opp the grete want that I and my poore children Dooth suffer for want of breade, for my husbnde by the meanes of his brother is kept from vs and will alowe vs noe meanes at all," etc., from Eevill this Thursday morning.

George Hayne, portryve.
Richard Collens, } Constables.
Edmund Deanes, }

This poor woman to be relieved by the o^rseers of the pishe of the pishe of Evill.

31. A letter written from Orchard this xxiiijth of April, 1609, by yo^r lovinge Brother and ffrind, John Wyndm To the Right Wor^l, his good Brother Sr John Portman, Knight, and other the Justices of the bench at the Sessions at Ivelchester, etc.

"Sr, vppon the levyinge of severall amercyamt^s imposed at sundry Sessions heretofore amountinge neere to the some of flower pounds, on the Hundreds of Williton ffreemans and Carhampton for want of new makeinge of Mowthe Bridge in

Decaye, etc., it was ordered that the Constables and the rest should pforme the same repairing to the place wth Carpenters and masons had wth them, to consider and estimate how it might be best done, and vpon what Charge, etc., we have resolved that as soon as the waters doth abate well to come to the work and lay the foundation, a new assemblie shalbe for a p^sent Rate to be made, etc., the water Continuinge somewhat bigge, etc., My request is vnto y^o and others the Justices of the bench, that y^o wilbe pleased to spare them of am'ciam^{ts} at this Sessions, and in this cause I assuringe y^o in their behalves and my owne, in all that may Concern my dutie, and place about the same that before Bartholomew Day next the same bridge shalbe set vp and well finished, etc.

32. Complaint made by "asstene gotfrie of marke, tethinge-man in the peace of our Lord God, thousand six hundred and nine," that he took William Lide in his tithing of stealing of sheep, etc. Richard Whitt taken in his tithing for "departing from his Captaine, out of Irlland with out lissences and other maters of felony," etc., but was never paid for so doing, etc. "Ytt is ordered by the Court that the Tythinge of Marke bee distrayned for 8s. 5d., laid out by Augustine Godfrey for carryinge of two prisoners to the Gaole."

33. The humble peticon of the Townesmen of the Towne of Brewton to be relieved from the warrant from M^r. Alexander Evvens, M^r. John ffarwell and M^r. Morris Gilbert, setting one Richard Parker, who had been living in the parish of Charlton Whorethorne for the space of xxx^{tie} years, and having ix children by two "weeves," on the town of Bruton. Order made by the Justices that the said Richard Parker should repair to Charlton and there to be relieved, etc.

34. Order made at the General Sessions of the peace held at Wells, the Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany of James I. (1607-10), that thear shalbe payd towards the fynishing of the reparation of Kaynsham Bridge owt of the Western lymits xx^{li} and out of the east xx^{li} w^{ch} sayd sumes

shalbee answerd owt of the hospitall mony of each dyvisyon, the
yeare 1610.

Tho : Phellyppes,
Hug : Halswell,
Jo : Rodney,
Barn : Samborne,
Thomas Horner,
Fra : Baber,
Robert Hopton,
John Adams,

Edw. Hext,
John Portman,
John Haryngton,
ffran : James,
Robrt Cuff,
Alex. Evvens,
Tho : Hughes.

35. A warrant signed by "John Haryngton," dated the 10th day of January, 1609, and directed to the Constables and Tythingmen, and others commanding them in his Majesty's name to bring before him or some other of his fellow Justices, the bodie of Thomas Hill," etc.

36. An application signed by the overseers and the inhabitants of the parish of Walton, for a licence for the erecting of a cottage there by "Richard Pittman, borne wthin the pishe aforesaide and allweys a dweller there, havinge a wief and maney poore chyldren," etc., "the said Richard Pittman is a verye honest and true laborer, and verye needeful in Respect of the want of Laborers wth in o^r said pishe," etc. Consent given by "Edward Hext." "Yf the lord of the manor be pleased, a place be Assigned him to buyld yn," etc.

"I am contented, the inhabitants shall appoint a convenient place to erect a Cottage accordingly,

Thomas Thynne."

37. 2 November, 1609. An order made by "Hug. Halswell and Edward Rogers," for the payment of "the some of three pence weekelie," etc., "toward the maintaynaunce or sustentacon" of a "base child," born in the parish of Northpetherton.

38. The examination of John Sittyngs, Glastonberre, Smyth, touching his dealing with horses.

39. The informations of Agnes Harding of Stanton Prior Spinster, and of Marie Abbott of Keinsham, wife of Tho. Abbott, respecting an assault committed by Henrie Champneyes or Chammes of Wilmington, upon Willm. Richmond, Junr. of Stanton aforesaid on the highway near Brislington.

40. An order made by "Tho. Phelyppes and Cristofer Preston" for the maintenance of a "base child," born at Stoford in the parish of Barwick, 15th day of July, 1609.

41. A complaint made by John Jennings, churchwarden, and John Gamlinge and John Ingram, overseers at Milverton, that an order made for the maintenance of a child, had not been acted upon.

42. An order made the 27th of February, 6 James I., by Sir John Rodney, Knight, and ffancis James Doctor of the Lawe, for the maintenance of a child born at East Pennard.

43. An order made the 22nd day of June, 1609, by Alexander Evvens and John ffarewell, Esq., for the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Wincalton.

44. An order made the 20th day of June, 1609, by Henry Walrond and Crystofer Preston, Esq^{rs}., for the maintenance of a child born at Chard. "Which thinge by any probable circumstances, both vppon the examyncon of the women w^{ch} weare present or neere at the byrth of the said child and also by the testimony of other witnesses could not appere vnto vs to be trew, neither induce vs to give credit to the accusation of the said Margaret Wylliams: yet finding the said Wylliam Parris *als* Dourt tractable and wylling to contribute towardes the relief of the said child, we do therefore order that the said Wylliam Parris *als* Dourt shalbe bound wth sureties to the Churchwardens and overseers for the poore of the parish of Chard aforesaid, for the payment of the sayd weekly some of eyght pence," etc.

45. The Report or Certificate of John ffrancis and Humfrey Windham, Esquyers, etc., taken before them at Milverton, the

19th of April, 1609, and whereby yt appeereth eyther by other or by wrytinge vnder John Cade's hand and seal, or by both, that the said John Cade (a married man) is the ffather "of three illegitimate children," etc. "That is to saie Marie, Johane, and Margaret, and what they doe thinke of their pte fitt to be Censured therein," etc.

46. An Order set down, etc., by John ffrauncis and James Clarke, Esq^{res}, etc., by them taken at Bishoppes Lideard the ixth day of May, 1609, for the maintenance, etc., of an illegitimate child," etc., of Elizabeth Sellocke als Honiball and George Cridland of the place Fullur, "ffynally it is ordered for his and her corporall punishment they shalbe openly whipped in the streete in the Towne of Bishoppes Lideard aforesaid."

47. An order made at Priddey, the eight day of July, 1609, by John Maye and John Adams, esquires, that Thomas Whiteinge should pay yearly during the term of his natural life the sum of xx^{tie} nobles quarterly (viz.), thirty three shillings and four pence every quarter to the Mayor of Axbridge to the use of his son Robert Whiteing, for the maintenance of him, his wife and children during such time as the said Robert Whiteinge shall not be able of himself to maintain himself, his wife and children.

"Wheras by an order att the geffall Sessions holden att Ivvilchester in the Countye aforesaid, the xxvth daye of Aprill last past, vppon the peticon of the mayo^r and Burgesses of the towne of Axbridge, that Robert Whiteinge, an inhabitant of the said towne haveinge a Wief and eight Children is so decayed by longe imprisom^t thorough shuertiship as that he is become thorough his said Children a burthen vnto the said towne and that Tho: Whiteinge, his ffather, beinge a man of greate vallew refuseth to give him and them any releife in their extreame necessitye," etc.

48. "To the Wo^{rs} the Kings Ma^{ty}s Justices of the peace.
We the Constables of Taunton in the Countye of Som^{set} and others of the same Towne doe pray yo^r good wo^{rs} to grant to Durstoun Briddian of Wedmore yo^r Lawfull licens to bringe

Butter to or Towne of Taunton, ffor that he is staid by Brudgwater menn and Cannott com through the same, not Hauenge a licence, and we will rest bound to yor good Worshippes for the same. Wee know that he or his wife is heare this somt time twice every Weeke With one or two horselading of Butter.

John Boone }
James Reynolds } Constabls.

For Taunton onely Sr John Portman.

William Ednye,
Willm. Lechland,
John Payen,

Hugh Hill, port Rives,
Wm. Darc,
Simon Saunders."

78. An order dated the xxijth of June, 1609, made by Alexander Ewens and John ffarewell Esquires, for the "sustentation and mayntenance of a child born in the parish of Kylmenton. The mother to pay 3*d*. a week, she having vnmotherly and most vnnaturally stopped and dried upp her brestes, by means whereof she hath no milk to norishe, cherishe, and breede vpp her said childe, but must be suckled and brought vpp by another Woman"; the reputed father to pay 9*d*. a week, etc.

79. A letter from "Your assured louinge frende Fra: Baber, dated Chewe this xijth of June, 1609," addressed To the righte Worshipfull my very louinge frendes Sr John Portman, Sr Edward Hexte Knights, and John Pine esquier," etc., respecting "one Evans his wief, daughter, and servaunt," who had been bound over to Taunton Sessions by Thomas Neade of Beaminster, within the county of Dorset, etc. [Memoranda relating to 18 cases indorsed on the same letter.]

80. An order made by John ffrauncis and Humfrey Windham Esquiers, at Milverton the 15th day of March, 1609, "towards the findinge" and "keepinge" of a child "borne out of lawfull matrimonie" at Sampforde Arundell. The money to be paid "vpon the sondaie in everie of the said weekes Immediatelic after dyvine service ended in the forenoone of the same daie and vnto the Churchwarden or Churchwardens of Sampforde

Arundell," etc., "att or vpon the Communion table in ye Church of Sampforde Arundell aforesaid," etc. The father and mother shall "after the first lesson vpon some sondaie or sondaies in the pishe Church where he or she dwelleth confesse their faulte and offence aforesaid," etc. "And yf he or she shall faile in doeing hereof," etc., to "be openlie whipped," etc.

81. An order made by Sr Nicholas Halswell Knight, Edward Rogers and Robert Cuffe Esquiers, at Bridgwater, the 22nd of February, 1608, for the "keepinge of a basse Chield named Brigett," etc.

82. An order dated the 23rd day of April, 7th James I., under the hands and seals of Sir Edw. Hext and John Pyne Esqre., for the relieving and keeping of a child whose parents belonged to the parish of Chilthorne, and that the same might not be chargeable to the parish of Mochelny where she was born.

83. An order dated the 7th day of February, 6th James I., at Netherham, under the hands and seals of Sir Edward Hext and John Pyne Esqre., for the relieving and keeping of one Richard Merryett born in the parish of Huishe.

84. An order dated the 1st day of March, 6th James I., made at Milverton by Sr ffrauncis Popham, Knight, John ffrauncis and Humfrey Windham Esquyers, for the finding of a child born in the parish of Wyvelscombe in the county of Somerset.

85. "An order touching a base child named Sommer," born at Otherey, taken the 21st day of January, 1608, by "Sr Nicholas Halswell Knight and Robert Cuffe Esquior, two of his Maties Justices of the peace neere vnto the said pish of Otherey."

86. "An order for the keeping of a base child named Charyty," born at Stokegurcy, taken by Sr Nicholas Halswell Knight, Edward Rogers and Robt. Cuffe Esqrs., etc., February 22, 1608.

87. "An order for the kepinge of a base child named Lyster," born at Middlezoy, taken the 22nd of April, 1609, by

Sr John Malett and Sr Nich Halswell Knights, Edward Rogers and Robert Cuffe Esquiers. Two reputed fathers to pay 4d. each weekly.

88. An order for the keeping of a child born at Huishe, taken by Sir Edward Hexte and John Pyne Esq^{re}. 24th April, 7 James I.

89. An order for the keeping of a child born at Evell, taken by Alexander Ewens and John ffarewell Esq^{re}, the 16th day of February, 1608.

90. An order for the keeping of a child born in the parish of St. Decumans, taken by Sr John Windham and John Trevelyan Esquier, "att Yarde" the 4th day of March, 1608.

91. An order for the keeping of a child born within the parish of Kinton, taken before Alexander Ewens and John ffarewell Esq^{res} the 25th day of January, 1608.

BOOK XI.

8 AND 9 JAMES I., 1610, 1611.

1. Certificate dated the 25th of June, 1611, that John Rabbetts of Pilton had with two sufficient sureties entered in to band of sum of £10 to me, George Ganfeild, one of the overseers of the poor of the parish aforesaid, George Gaynforde.

This certificate is most true.

Jo : Rodney.

Rychard Morland.

The mark of William Pearse.

The mark of Edward Latman, Churchwarden.

2. To the Hon^{bl} Sr Edward Phellipps Knight Maister of the rolls.

The humble petition of Robert Jerrard of Sampford Orcas.
To grant the good behaviour against John Dancy of Sampford aforesaid, gent.

Being one of the grand jury, 12 months previously, Robert Jerrard presented John Dancy for not coming to his parish church. About St. James' day last past your Suppst, with some others, having occasion to go to the parish church after prayers, of Sampford aforesaid, to be satisfied of divers matters in controversy between Mr. Clavell and himself, concerning a seat in the church. And the said Dancy there came to your Suppst, and challenged the *feild* of him, with many outrageous audacious and disgraceful terms in the church of Sampford Orcas aforesaid and in the presence of divers others.

3. An order dated the vijth day of April, 1611, made by Sir Tho. Phelyppes and Sir Edw. Hext for the keeping of a child at Walton.

4. An order dated the 15th day of July, 1611, made by Sir John Harrington [signs Haryngton] and James Bysse Esq^{re}, for the keeping of a child at Buckland Dinham.

5. An order dated the 28th day of August, 9 James I., made by Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Pelyppes for the keeping of a child at South Petherton.

6. The humble petition of the parishioners of Tintenhull.

That the town of Ivelchester having at the last Sessions etc., holden at Ivelchester "sythens Easter last," presented that the Cawswaye of his Ma^{ty}s highway leading from Petherton brydg unto Ivelchester, was in decay for lack of reparation. We whose names, of the said parish of Tintenhull and also of the said Town of Ivelchester which are hereunder written, whereof divers were of the said Jury do signify, etc., so much as it ought to be repaired by the said parishioners of Tintenhull, etc., from the southwest corner of a pasture ground called Tintenhull West feld adioyning unto the lane there leading towards Ayshe, unto a "lytle brydg or bow" lying nearer to a great "brydg or bow"

by Ivelchester meadow called Chear bow "ys very sufficiently repaired and amended," etc.

Signed—

Robt. Pope.

Edward Podger.

John Lockyer.

Thomas Napper.

Henry James.

Thomas Hopkins.

John Hopkyns.

Signed : Sander Sille.

Signed : Melchides (?) Jones.

Intrat. ; discharge the pcesse. Ordered that pces shalbe staid, and the psentmt. discharged.

7. Petition to Sir John Portman Kt., and the rest of the King's, etc., Justices at Taunton, from the inhabitants of Odcombe, that Josephe Audley of Odcombe, Tanner, who was pressed a soldier into Ireland, and there employed in the service of our late "sovereign lady of famous memorye quene Elizabeth," etc., where he was "maymed and hurte," now using the trade of a tanner, etc., may erect a dwelling house at Odcombe on the lords waste ground, licence having been obtained from Sr Thomas Phelippes Kt., lord of the manor. [Undated.]

8. The humble petition of Thomas Prockter a "pencioner." [Taunton.]

Order made that his two years' pension £5 6s. should be paid immediately to Thomas Prockter who had been two years at London lyng under "Chivrgions hands in cure of his wounds by meanes whereof he hath been unpaid duringe the said two yeares," etc.

9. The Humble Petition dated the 25th day of June, 1611, to the Justices assembled at the General Sessions of the peace holden at Taunton of John Bearde of "Michell creeck" etc. Blacksmyth who after having bought a small cottage, and had in the new building thereof "sett vpp the same to keepe yo^r said Suppliant and his wife and children from Winde and Raine and blustros Wheather" etc., "ytt pleased God by fyer to distroy the

same aboute seaven Daies sithence and like to haue burned yo^r said suppliants poore children as they laye in theire bedds had not yo^r said suppliant adventured his life beinge in great distres to free them from the fier etc."

An order made the 25th day of June, 1611, for the Petitioner to have and receive out of "hospitall money" £5.

10. Memorandum that I Thomas Moore of Hatesbury in the countie of Wilts Esquier lord of the manor of Linge in the countie of Somerset have covēnted and graunted etc., vnto James Millard of Linge aforesaid Laborer A convenient quantitie of ground in breadths and lengths for him the said James to buyld erect and sett vp A Cottage for habitacon in Stackinge lane within the parish and manor of Linge aforesaid wher Robte Bidgood my baylif shall lymit and appoynt etc., by the rent of six pence yerely etc., and such other customes dutyes and &vics as other the like Tennts doe etc. In witness etc., the 12th day of April 9 James I.

11. Petition to St. Nicholas Halswell Knt., Edward Rogers and Mr. Robert Cuffe Esquiers etc., signed by William Hitt Constable, George French, vicar there, and about 25 other inhabitants of Lyng for a licence for the said James Millar or Millard to erect such cottage. Licence granted.

12. Petition to Sir John Windham dated the second of May 1611, from twelve of the inhabitants of the Stowey respecting Joan Peter "a womā of verie euill name and fame etc."

13. To the Right Wo^r. the Justices of the Peace at the Taunton Sessions.

The humble desire of Thomas Gould being "by some mischaunce fallen so lame, as that I can nether go nor ryde" that Robt. Podger his wiff and daughter may be continued to the good behaviour etc. [Undated.]

14. 4^{to} Aprilis Jacobi 9^{no}.

The causes of the good behaviour granted against Robte Podger at Easter Sessions in Ivelchester.

✓ Imprimis the enclosing the common and high way to the Mills of Thomas Gould in Northover by force and without any right etc.

Itm the said Podger was convicted of manslaughter and his fellow hanged for the same fact etc.

15. The complaint to the Justices at Taunton by Thomas Gould and others respecting Robt. Podger.

16. 17th October, 1611.

Presentment of Humphry Sible and Joan Breathers of Ilchester in the Court of the Archdeacon of Wells.

17. An order made the 6th day of April 1611 respecting a child born in North Perrett.

18. An order made respecting a child born at Weston [super-Mare]. Dated the 20th day of January 8 James I.

19. "A Certificate.

To the right Worshipfull the Justices of Peace in the Court of Somerset nowe assembled in the quarter Sessions holden at Ilchester.

Maie it please your Worshipes to be aduertised that John Bollam the bearer hereof hath beene a good whiles sithence publickely married here in the parish Church of Wiueliscombe accordinge to the order appointed in the booke of common prayers to one Charity Atkins late of Elsworthy which thinge to be true we the parties vnder named doe testifie and certifie at the request of the sayde John by the subscription of our names. Dated at Wiueliscombe the laste day of March Anno Doi 1611.

by me William Crouther
vicar of Wiueliscombe

Henrie Storie	John Hoyell
Dauid Yea Junior	Robert Cordinge
overseers for the pore	

Willeam Bennett
George Mere Church Wardings."

20. An order made the 19th day of February 1610 for relieving and keeping of a child born in the parish of Curry Mallett.

21. An order made the 22nd day of March, 1610, for the bringing up of a child born in the parish of Wincanton.

22. At Iuellchester iij^o day of April, 1611.

Presentment that Robert Podger of Iuelchester etc. Shomaker upon the xxviith day of March 9th, James I. With force and arms did assault, beat and evil entreate Thomas Golde of Northover etc., gent etc.

Market way leading from Babcary unto Bruton is foundeours etc.

The market way leading unto Evyll and Sherborne is ffoundeours etc.

23. An order made the 8th day of December, 8 James I. towards the relief of a child born in the parish of Dynnyngton.

24. An order dated the xxijth day of December, 8 James I. by Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Phillipps Knights, Henry Walrond, Christopher Preston and Thomas Warre Esquiers that John Rowswell of Combe St. Nicholas, husbandman a tippler without licence, who had been committed to gaol for three days had found sufficient sureties whereupon he hath been delivered.

25. An order set down and established touching a child born within the parish of Mudford. Dated 1st January, 8 James I.

26. An order made respecting a child born within the parish of Purs: Caundell in the County of Dorset. Dated 3 January, 1610.

27. The confession of Joane Rabbetts of Purs-Candle taken before Alexander Ewens Esquire the 19th day of October 1610 respecting the paternity of the child.

28. Wells Sessions 1610 [1].

The humble petition and information of John Saffin of Bicknaller yeoman in the behalf of his servants, Mathew Beale and Jane Longe, sheweth and informeth that "Richard Phelps Clarke vicar of Stogumber and Bicknaller" hath heretofore privately informed against the said Mathew and Jane, and caused them to be cited to the Ecclesiastical Court at Wells for not receiving the Communion at Easter 1609 "whereas himselfe repeld them therefrom for not yielding to pay such duties as his procter demanded," etc., "caused the said Mathew to be cyted," etc., "for lookinge on players at tyme of dyvine srvice whereor noe prooffe could be made" etc., "likewise procured the said Jane to be cyted etc., for not receyvinge the Communion three tymes in the yeare" etc., "caused the said Mathew to be cyted to Welles for playnge at Bowles in the Churchyard of Bicknaller on Whitson eve laste which could not be proved against him, by occasion of which citacons the said Walter and Jane haue bene put to greate traile and expenss"—"the said Mr. Phelps hath heretofore bene bounde over by the Justices of the peace of those p^{ts} for the like troublesome behaviour and vsage towards dyvers others of his pishioners, but hath rid himselfe from answeringe them by supsedeas, yet vseth the like dealing to dyvers other psons" etc., "Prayeth yo^r wo^{rps} to provide some good meanes wherby the said Mr. Phelps may be reclaymed, from theis, and, the like his vncharitable and malicious courses."

29. An order made the xjth day of July 1610 by Sir Thomas Phelyppes and Sir Edward Hext Kts., for the keeping etc. of a child born in the parish of Kingsdone.

30. An order made the vijth day of January 1610 by Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Phelyppes Kts., for the keeping etc., of a child born at Compton Durvyle within the parish of South Petherton.

31. An order made the 5th day of January 1610 by the same Justices for the keeping of a child etc., born in South Petherton.

32. Petition by the Constables (Thomas florde and Jacob Dawes) and several of the other inhabitants of Glastonbury, that £13 6s. 8d. which was ordered by the Sessions at Bruton on the 12th of January, 1603, to be disbursed and paid yearly to the two Alms houses in Glaston, should be equally divided and paid over unto the Constables so that the poor may have the full allowance, etc.

33. Petition of Joseph Audley of Odcombe, Tanner, heretofore pressed as "Soldy^r into Irelande, and there ymployed in the svce of o^r late so^vaigne ladye (of famous memorye quene Elizabeth) where yo^r Supp^t was maymed and hurte, And nowe vsinge the trade of a tanner, wherevnto yo^r sayd Supp^t was an Apprentice," etc., to give "allowance" to his building a dwelling house upon some part of the lords waste ground in the parish of Odcombe. "To the s^r Wor^{ll} S^r Edward Phelippes, Knight, and the rest of the Kings Ma^{ties} Justices of the peace at the Sessions assembled."

Allocat. p. Curia.

34. Consent by the tenants of the manor of Westnuton [West Newton] "to the bearer hereof John Stodgell, being an honest pore man a tennts sonne of the said mannor havinge a wyfe and two children) to erect sett vpp a Cottage in some waste and spare place w^{thin} the said mannor to sucker him his wyfe and children in this their poore estate."

S^r Henry Hawley.

The Churchwardens and o^fiseers of the poore of the pishe of Northpetherton doe consent hervnto.

George Pratt,	} Churchwardens.
Marmaduke Porter,	
Willm. Palmer,	} o ^f iseers.
Willm. Keape,	
Robte. Batt,	

Henrie Chicke, John Galhampton, Roger Starkeye.
John Hucker, his marke Richard Starkeyes, the marke
of John Stodgell, George Chicke.

35. To the Right Woorshipfull the Justices of the benche, at the generall sessions holden at Taunton, wee the inhabitants of the pishes of Berrow and Breane whose names are vnder written, wishe pefect ffellicitie in Christ.

Where as the bearer hereof Richard Barber of Berrow being bounde to answere, at this Sessions, conserninge a certayne shippe who by forse of weather, was driven into Axe water, where they anchored for the space of eightine dayes, or there aboutt, att which tyme they behaved themselves in verie good sorte, And beinge serched, by the officers appoynted for that place, it was reported by the same officers that they were a Marchaunt of Hull, by reason where of divers of the worke men who then wrought about the sea fences, and daylie beholdinge their honest demeanor, went aborde them, and manye other more of the Countrye ncere adioyninge. Now this bearer at the same tyme sold vnto one Isacke Goold sonne of Robert Goold of Vphill, one hiffer woorth the thirtie-three shillinges and fowre penc and by the same Isackes appoyntment delivered the victualls vnto some of the Company, of the same shippe of Hull, and at the deliuerie thereof, was seen by all the woorke men that wrought there, at the same tyme. In witness whereof, wee beinge bound in Christian Charitie, to testifie the truthe in doubtfull causes as fare foorth as we knowe have here vnto sett our handes.

Richard Morgan, frances Hill, Thomas Goolde, φ Thomas Hodge, + Willm. Maron, b Beniamme Griffen, John Combe, Bartholomew Syme, † Anthoneye Linge, Thomas Banwell, O Robert Looove, T James Thomas, George Rydon, Willm. Palmer, John Trott, Willm. Sydnham, 8 John Rydon, Hugh Goolde, 6 Roger Swayne, Willm. ffrye, Thomas Gillinge.

36. The Petition of Elinor Boulton now prisoner in the Sheriffs Ward of Ivelchester, at the suit of Robert Somers of Othery whose covenant servant she was for the space of four years, etc.

37. Certificate of the Constables of Brewton, John Davies and John Chicke, concerning one Graye who by reason of some important actions we could not bring but have sent him by our Officers unto your Worship for the which we had your Warrant at the Quarter Sessions, etc. Dated the 13th of May, 1610.

38. A Certificate of inhabitants of Stogursey addressed to Sir John Wyndham, Knight, respecting the behaviour of Elizabeth Bennett wife of Alexander Bennett of Stogursey, etc. Thoms. Hobbes, gent, John Denscombe, John Prest, Walter Poole, Henry Glover, the mark of David Burland, John Tucker, the mark of Willm. Markes, the mark of John Milton Indorsed [Peticoes et Lrē, Certificate at Taunton Octavo—certificat against Eliza : Bennett of Stogursey].

39. The information of Richard Watts Constable of Shepton Mallett concerning one John Dolinge, Innkeeper in Shepton, aforesaid, etc.

Upon "Sunday" the 8th of April last certain outrages and "affrayers" in breaking his Majesty's peace were committed by divers lewd persons and "cosners" in Shepton Mallett intelligence being given by divers of the inhabitants and especially by one James Strowde, etc. "About St. Andros day last there was committed within two or three miles of Shepton, five robberies on the high way within eight days," etc. Dolling's house was observed to be a place of weekly resort of many lewd and suspicious persons "Amongst whom was one Burdge, Hill, Homes, Tucker, Loxton, Shepard, Biggs and others whos names he knoweth not of which some of them are executed and other some doe stand vppon bayle and the rest are not yet taken, etc." Another place of meeting was at an "Inn in Brewton called the Vnicorne."

40. "A Note what Jone Worcombe can say whose the mare is and what hath been done as concerning the same."

41. At the Assizes and General Gaol delivery, etc., held at Chard the 1st day of August James I. before Thomas flemyng, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Pleas and Laurence Tanfeld, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, etc.

The lord the King against James Beard. (?)

It is ordered that the defe^t shall be suppressed from keeping of Alehouse or Tippling house, etc.

Warre.

42. A certificate dated the 7th of January, 1609 (10), from the inhabitants of Wotton addressed to Sir Edward Phillipps, Knight, giving "our neighbour Richard Bartlett of Wotton," a good character, etc., John Strode, Robert Coker, Hum. Stickland, John Packer, Rector de Wootton, p'd, Richard Butters, Thomas Patye, John Clavell, John Pyne, Tho. (?) Barnes, John Arnold, John Ryves, William ffoorde, Henry Kete, (?) Hughes Downton, William Jenkyns, Ralphe Mullett, Samuel Rabbetts, Richard Hebbyche, Rich. Downton, Willm. Saundes.

43. A certificate from the subsidy men (with the exception of one subsidy man) and women of the parish of Stawleighe, that they were very willing to accept of the security which John Churley the bearer hereof hath offered unto us for the discharge of our said parish of Stawleghe "tow chinge," etc., a child, etc. [Undated].

44. A rate made by the ryght honorable the late lord Cheefe Justice of Englande as foloweth ffor his Maties Srvice within the towne and pish of Wellington.

George Michells	...	id.	William Stut	...	iiijd.
Vid Shirford	...	iiijd.	Thomas Gifforde	the	
William ffry	...	vd.	yonger	...	xvd.
George Prowse	...	iijs. xjd.	Johan Gardner	vid	...
Johane Browne	...	jd.	Alexander Bull	...	iiijd.
William Marten	...	iiijd.	George Bery	...	iiijd.
John fflowacr	...	iiijd.	John Cole	...	jd.
Thomas Gifforde, the			John Weaver	...	jd.
elder	...	ijd.	Kathrne Colborne	...	ijd.
Vid Gill	...	ijd.	Walter Popham, gent.		iiijd.
George Prowse	...	iiijd. ob.	Jasper Golet	...	iiijd.
George Coope	...	iiijd.	Henry Gifford, land	...	vd.
An Wood widdow	...	ijs. ijd.	The tenants of Capes		
Margaret Sowthy and			land of Colompton		xv. ob.
John Burt	...	vjd.	Thomas ffrances esqre.		iiijd. ob.
John Sely, the yonger	...	xjd.	Humfry Wordan, gent.		xiiijd.
William Pery	...	jd.	Humffry carpenter	...	iiijd.
Richard comer	...	vjd.	Robt Colman	...	ob.
[Parsons] Robt. Psons			Wiliombud of London		iiijd.
Vid pry of pry [Percy]		xxd.	Laurenc Steres Servants		xvd.
Johan Howell (?)	...	iiijd. ob.	Henry How	...	jd.
Richard Sytle and			The Tenant of George		
William Cogan	...	vd.	Safforde	...	ij. ob.
John brocke	...	xd.			

45. An order for the keeping of a child named Thomas born in the parish of Chedzey made by Sir Edward Hext, Knight, and Edward Rogers, Esquier, etc. Dated the 6th day of Aprill 1610.

46. An order made by John ffrauncis and Humfrey Windham, Esq^{rs}. at Milverton the 8th day of June, 8 James I. towards the "finding" of a child born in the parish of Wiveliscombe.

47. An order made by Sir Thomas Phelyppes and Sir Edward Hext, Knights, on the xth day of June, 1610, for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Huishe.

55. An order made by John ffrauncis and Humfry Windham, esquires, at Milverton, the last day of August [1610], towards the keeping and the finding of a child born in the parish of Wiveliscombe.

56. Certificate dated the 16th day of September, 1610, stating that the bearer John Atkins is bound over to appear at this Sessions (by the means of one Katheren Passemors of Dulverton), who had accused him of being the father of her child. That upon the authority of a "mydwiffe, with other honest women," it had been found that she was not going to be a mother.

Teste me Johe Watts, Clercke.

By me Roberte Troute,	} Constables.
Willm. Morris,	
By me John Catford,	
Nicolas Carre (?).	
Robert Chillcott.	

Addressed to Sir John Windham, Knight.

57. 17^o die Septembris, Anno Dno, 1610. Certificate that Robert Goodinge of Northpetherton had given a sufficient bond for the payment of £3, etc., towards the "relyving and mayneteyinge" of a child called Alexander.

The mark of Martin Kellie, one of the churchwardens.

The mark of Henry Court, H.C.	} Offseers.
The mark of William Nation, M.	

58. An order made by Sir Tho. Phelyppes and Sir Edw. Hext on the 9th of April, 1610, for the relieving and keeping of a child born in the parish of Somerton.

59. An order made by Sir John Portman, Sir Tho. Phelyppes, Kts., and Henry Walrond, Esq^{rs}, the 30th day of March, 1610, for payment to the overseers of Bicknell 6*d*. weekly, towards the keeping of a child, etc.

60. An order made by Alexander Evvens and John ffarewell, Esq^{rs}, etc., the 15th day of February, 1609, towards the sustentation and bringing up of a child born in the parish of Marston.

BOOK 13.

9, 10 JAMES I., 1611, 1612.

1. A precept dated in the General Sessions holden at Taunton the xxvth day of June, 1611, for the collection of a sum [the amount not specified] to be paid by the hundred of North Curry for the relief and maintenance of the towns of Dunster and Mynhead, "latelie infected wth the pestilence," etc., and the same to bring vnto Taunton vnto Mr. John Trobridge, his house there on Saterdaie, the xiiijth of July next, and to paie yt vnto the Constables of hundred of Carhampton or their assignes," etc. [The names of eighteen hundreds endorsed on this document.]

2. "Sir Wth our Dutyes Remembred may it please yo^r worshipes this bearer Willyam Slade hathe couenantid wth one Richarde Allen of Stratton on the forse, to be his Svante for one whole yeare, and hathe ij*d*. as his covente monye and is to haue ij^{li} xiijs. iiij*d*. for his yerres svise vidz xiijs. iiij*d*. the quarter, and is to goe to the sayd Richarde Allen the 20 : of this monnthe, in wittnes herof wee whose names ar vnder expressed haue her

vnto sett our hands. Castell carye this Sondaie beinge the 19 of Apiell, 1612.

Yo^r wo^{ps} : to Dispose of
John Batt, Constable.
Anthony A. Barough.
Gabiell Pinder.
William Dawes.

[Endorsed.] To the Wo^rshipfull M^r. Alex. Ewens, Esquire,
at his house at Northe Cadburye humbly geue these : "

3. A certificate dated Staple, this 20th day of April, 1612, signed by Robert Boyse and Nicholas Streette and addressed to the Justices at the Sessions at Ilchester, certifying that Olyver Bradsaw had complied with order taken by S^r John Portman and M^r. John Symes for the discharging of the parish of a child.

4. A certificate signed and sealed by "Thomas Power, maior," of the city of Bath, stating that "John Woode of this Cytty" Doctor in phisicke standeth heare bounde in Recognizances wth suertyes for keepinge of the peace against All his ma^{ts}, leige people and especyally against John Blackleech." Dated 20th day of April, 10th James I.

Addressed to all his Majesty's Justices of the peace within the County of Somerset.

5. An order made the 13th day of Dec. 1611, by Sir John Rodney in the matter of divers controversies depending between Robt. Podger and Roger Searle of the one pt, and Robert Seely, Cadwallader Gylbert Richard Seely and others of the other pt, for and concerning a Battery and Rescouse supported to be doone and comitted vpō and against ye said Robart, Podger and Roger Searle, etc.

6. The humble petition of Jane Lye, wife of William Lye, "a poore distressed woman," stating that her husband who was born at East Pennard a "mettleman by his Trade," had fled from her leaving her two children "and noe place of certheyntie

to dwell in," etc. Order made that if she could prove either by the godfather or godmother of her said husband that he was born in East Pennard, then she should be settled there and provided for.

7. A document [torn] with the names of Jo: Stone and Mathew Bindon, overseers of Old Cleve.

8. Thomas Horner, Esq^{re}, to the Justices at Ilchester, respecting the order which was taken by the Lo: Cheiff Baron, that Mr. Baber and Mr. James Bisse have the hearing and determining of the controversies between Robert Bonham and Agnes Vowles, And according to the order Mr. Baber and Mr. Bisse met at Pensford, etc. [the maintenance of a child at Buckland Dinham].

9. Letter from Sir Thomas Bridgs dated from Keinsham this 21th of April, "to my Lovinge freind Mr. Edward Wicks," etc., requesting that the bearer, Henry Oliver [Oliver], should be discharged, sooner than the usual time of calling the recognizances, "the party who swore the peace against him" having released him.

10. A fragment, "Johes Weaver als Chapple of Marke h xx^{li}. Tho. Pagoose, of Limpsham h. Jo: Wynn de Marke x^{li}," etc.

11. A Certificate from the inhabitants of Wellowe, stating that Egford Bridge belonging to the inhabitants of Henton and Norton, and for the repairing of which two amercements had been levied upon them, etc., had been very well and sufficiently repaired and amended for the space of two years, etc., think it fit that the foresaid Inhabitants of Henton and Norton should be eased, "And the Amersment stoken forth," etc., 20th April, 1612.

stay the issues

Egford Bridge.

Edw. Popham,
John Bockill,
John Rodwaye,

John Porch,
John Willis,
Richarde ffrauncis.

An order made at the General Sessions at Ivelchester for the removal of Edward Walker, an incorrigible rogue, to the place where he saith he was born, etc. Dated the 24th of April, 1612.

12. A letter dated Kemsham this 20th of April, 1612, from Sir Thomas Bridges to Mr. Wicks, requesting that the bearer, John Wooley of Kemsham, who was bound over unto Illchester Sessions might be dischargid, the child being since dead and the woman "runne away."

"I request yo^w that he may presentlie be discharged and not staie the vsuall tyme of callinge in regard he is a very poore fellowe."

13. Letter (20 Aprilis) from John Marsh of Taunton, "To his very lo: frind Mr. Edward Wykes, clerk of the peace att Ilchester," asking him "to save one Willm. Exton of ffitzhead his yssues, hee is sick and not well able to trauell, ytt is vppon a Traüse [traverse], And I will get yō satisfaccon this terme in London. And soe in haste I rest, Yo^{rs} Assured.

John Marshe."

14. Names of the Jurors for the Lord the King [18 names, one struck out and twelve apparently sworn].

15. "Articles exhibited on the behalf of Thomas Morgan of Easton in Gordan Esquier, against Thomas Robbes and Mary his nowe wife as followe.

Inp^rmis the said Thomas Robbes told one John Viggers that the said Mr. Morgan would Cousen him the said Viggers about the assuring of his Tenemt as he had Cosened him the said Thomas Robbes of Lyme blocks and pale and xx^{li} of money. Itm the said Thomas Robbes himself then replied and said that whatsoever the said Mr. Morgan borrowed of them did Cousen them of it. Itm the said Thomas Robbes wife called him the spawne of a passons sonne, and that the said Mr. Morgan's father did walk and that he was 'cuniured' (conjured) into the red sea, etc. Itm the said Mary Robbes said that she was as good a woman as Mrs. Morgan, and that

the said Mrs. Morgan was but a pedler's daughter, and that her father went about wth a footepack, etc., etc.

Itm she Called one Abraham Balle, a very honest man, and a sufficient maister of a shippe, Drunkered, wth other opprobrious terms not fit to be vsed.

ffurther she slaundered another very ancient modest woman, one Joan Gurnett, etc., etc., and generally she hath vsed lewd speeches of all the marryners wives of the parrishe, etc."

16. A letter dated from Abbotts Leigh this 13th of January, 1611, from Samuel Norton Esqr. to the Justices at Wells, stating that he had been requested by his neighbour, Mr. Thomas Morgan, to certify great misdemeanors both in words and actions done against him, his wife, his son and heir, and divers other of the best of the parish by Thomas Robbes and Mary his now wife, etc. [Refers to the Articles in No. 15.]

17. Yo^u must make Indictemts p^sently for theis following, etc. Jo: Browne.

18. Francis Baber Esqre. to Sir Edward Hext, concerning Robert Bonham, who, at the last Assizes, had petitioned to "my lord Cheif Baron," touching a child, etc.

19. "Sr I haue sent yo^u herin Closed iij^{or} recognizances wheof one is for a Typler, for w^{ch} this bearer will deliü yo^u iij^d. And soe I comend yo^u to God's ptecōn. Dunster Castle this xixth of Aprill, 1612.

Yo^r very louinge ffrind,
Peter Meade.

To my very good ffrind Mr. Christopher Browne, at Ivelchester these be ded."

20. A list of Cases.

21. A fragment of an Indictment.

22. An order made by Alexander Ewens, John ffarwell, and William Swanton Esqres. on the 8th day of April, 10th James I., touching a child born at Weeke within the parish of Milburne Porte, etc.

23. An order made by Sir Thomas Phelyppes and Henry Walrond Esqre. on the 22nd February, 1611, touching a child born in the parish of Barrington, etc.

24. An order made by Sir John Portman and John Symes Esqre. on the 12th day of February, respecting a child born in Taunton St. James.

25. An order made by Sir Thomas Phelyppes and Christopher Preston Esq^{re} on the 14th day of March, 9 James I., relating to a child born in the parish of Yevell.

26. An order made by the same Justices on the 21st day of March, 9th James I., respecting a child born in the parish of West Coker.

27. An order made by John ffarewell and William Swanton Esqres., on the 1st day of March, 1611, respecting a child born in the parish of West Camell.

28. An order made by the same Justices on the 1st day of March, 1611, for the keeping of a child born in the parish of West Camell.

29. An order made by John Maye and Nathaniel Still Esqres. the last day of March, 1612, for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Lympsham.

30. An order made by Sir Maurice Barkeley Knight, and William Swanton Esqre., the 6th day of November, 1612, concerning the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Brewham.

31. An order made by John ffrauncis and Humfrey Windham Esquior^s, the 8th day of January, 9 James I., concerning the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Wellington.

32. An order made by the same Justices on the same day concerning the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Wellington.

33. An order made by the same Justices on the same day concerning the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Westbuckland.

34. An order made by the same Justices on the same day concerning the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Westbuckland.

35. An order made by Alexander Ewens and John ffarwell Esquires, the 26th day of January, 1611, touching a child born in the parish of Queene Camell.

36. A Bond dated the 4th day of March, 1611, given by Mathew Harford of Creech, husbandman, to Sir John Rodney Knight, to appear at the Sessions at Ivelchester, 21st day of April next.

37. Bond given by Henry Ayshwood of Ivelchester, Tayler, Robert Lyde of the same, etc. Tayler and Robert Bartlett of Northover, Shewmaker, to Sir John Rodney Kt., on the 25th day of March, 10 James I., for the appearance of the said Henry Ayshwood at the next General Sessions, etc.

38. Bond by John Bowber, Rector of Buckland Mary, Robert Bowber, and John Bowbeare Junior, taken before Sir John Rodney Kt., 15th March, 9 James I., to appear at Ivelchester the 21st day of April next.

39. Bond of James Pulman of Taunton, etc., haberdasher, before Sir John Rodney Kt., 1st April, 1612, to appear at Ilchester 21st April next.

40. Bond of Richard Elworthie of Stogursey, etc., Tucker, before Sir John Rodney, 18th March, 9 James I., to appear at the Ivelchester Sessions.

41. Bond of James Hawker of Wellington, etc., husbandman [Laurence Cape of the same, husbandman, and James Comer of Wellington, Sureties], before Sir John Rodney, 6th February, 1611, for the appearance of the said James Hawker at the next Sessions.

42. A petition by the inhabitants of Combe St. Nicholas stating that one Richard Stockman and Vrsila his wife of Combe St. Nicholas (the youngest of them being above the age of 80 years and having no means of relief but only from the said parish of Combe, and have been by them relieved by the space of three years or thereabouts, which is surcharged in the present case by reason of the "Dedness of Trade and Dailie increase of the poore people, are like to perishe throughe famine," etc. Do humbly beseech your worships of your charitable foresight and provident care of Christian souls, being armed and enabled with the power of his Majesty's laws to tax, assess, and rate one John Stockman of Dorley [Durleigh] within the said County, son of the said Richard and Ursilowe, for and towards the relief of the said Richard and Ursilowe according to law and equity, for that the said John Stockman is a man of good means and able to relieve and keep his said parents from the alms of the said parish, and a man of small charge has but iij children, one married and ij marriageable. As knoweth the Almighty who ever in all felicity preserve your worship's estates.

Willim Ramsey, vicar,	Edward Rosseter,
Thomas Pringe, constable,	John Swete,
John ffrie, Jun.,	Roberte Woode,
John Irishe,	John Keeche,
John Seller,	John Lombard,
Thomas Addecote,	Nicholas Mardir.

John Stockman of Durleigh, Apd. Ivelchester to pay 12*d.* weekly, and when he shall be of better ability to pay more, etc., p. Cur^r.

43. At the General Sessions of the peace holden, etc., at Ivelchester the 21st day of April, 1612, etc.

Licence is granted by us the Justices of the peace here assembled, whose names are hereunder written that Roger Woodruffe of Miles Burrowe in the parish of Gregoriestooke, shall now build, edify, and set up an house or Cottage (with all convenient speed he may upon part of a close of meadow ground called by the name of Racke howse lying in Miles Burrow abovesaid, and now in the tenure of the said Roger Woodruffe, which part of the Close of meadow he of late bought for the term of three lives of one John ffull James, gent., for the sum of five pounds, etc. In witness, etc.

Tho. Phelyppes,
Alex. Ewens,

Edw. Hext,
John ffarewell.

44. " The humble petition of James Balche. May yt please yo^r wo^r :^{tps} to be adwtised that vpon the first of this instant Aprill, by Gods secrett ordinance and not by any Casuall or Careless meanes, the same daie being verie greate and violent winds, yo^r humble petitioner had by fire his Dwellinge howse, Barne, Bakehowse, Stable, and hay howse burned and consumed to the walles, and in the same howses had likewise burned the halfe of his household stuffe, all his Corne to the number of cxx^{tie} bushells of wheate, barly, malte and beanes, ij Lodes of hay, and vj Calues, his losses being of the valew of too hundred pounds and vpwards, to the greate hinderance and vndoinge of him and his famylie, Except yo^r wo^r :^{tps} in some Charitable mann^r shew yo^r favoures towards him, etc.

Ivelchester Decimo

vppon this peticon, it is ordered that the said James Balche shall have a hundred Markes towards his loss, to be payed vnto him by the Tresurors of the hospitalls for the wester Division, half of it to be payed vnto him this Sessions, and this Sessions come twelve monthes thother halfe.

John Portman,
Nich. Halswell,
Tho : Warre,
Alex Ewens,
Christofer Preston,

Tho Phelyppes,
Edw : Hext,
John Symes,
John ffarewell,
Henry Walrond.

Ivelchester Decimo.

45. At this Sessions it is ordered that proclamacon be made that noe Church Ales shal be kept, and all Justices doe bind over all such as shall keepe any ales by meanes of the dearth of Corne.

It is genally ordered that the Composicon (?) shall holde."

[Signed by all the Justices whose names appear to No. 44, with the addition of " Willm. Swanton."]

46. Petition by the overseers of the parish of Walton, with the Churchwardens and the rest of the inhabitants there, for a licence for William Somer to erect a cottage there.

47. At the General Sessions of the Peace holden at Ivelchester the xxijth day of April 1612.

Order made that no Summons be made upon presentments before the party or parties presented be called into the court, etc.

Order made that where the Grand Jury have found Billa vera and the witness do not likewise come forth to give their evidence unto the Jury summoned and appearing for the trial so it seemeth they have compounded the cause without making the court acquainted therewith that a warrant of the good behaviour be then granted against such persons not coming forth to give their evidence, etc.

48. An order made at the General Sessions of the Peace at Ivelchester the 21 day of April 10 James I., referring the question as to whether Mary Byflet were settled at Winford unto Sir Hugh Smith and Sir Edward Gorgs, Knights, John Maye and Joseph Rattle, Esquiers, etc.

49. An order that Sir Hugh Smith, Kt., should inquire into what damage had been done by John Plentie and William Neweborne who had assaulted Thomas fferrybee in Walton Park with a view to compensation.

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10 JAMES I. [1612-3.]

35. A letter dated from Cheriton the 28th [vicesimo octauo] day of January, 1612, written by *Lions Willughbie* to "my loving ffrinds Mr. Edward Weeks and Mr. xpofer Browne Clarks of the peace at the Session at Taunton or other of them," etc., concerning an indictment that he had preferred against one John Jacobb of Cheriton for a new erection contrary to the law.

36. Letter dated the 13th day of July, 1612, and signed Edmde Mathewe (?) addressede to Mr. Weekes at Taunton—"yf Richard Neele the bringer hereof be indighted at y^r quart^r Sessions for keepinge ill rule in his Inn, I pray let me entreate yu to stand is ffrind to direct him howe to traw^r se [traverse] it, etc."

37. A statement dated the 13 day of the month of July, 1612, "By me John Doughtie, parson of Alphington," to the effect that the bearer of it, Jone Turner, of Alphington, in the county of Devon, was married by him unto Gyles Turner in the parish church of Alphington about viij years since.

38. A letter from the constable of Wells Forum and "Estwalle" and others to John Mayes, Esquire, dated the 11th of July, 1612, stating that Richard Triggles, who had been in great danger of his life in consequence of a certain "affraye or fighting betwene diſs psons in Etwalls vppon mydsomday last at night, etc., had thoroughly recovered of his said hurt," they therefore ask that these poor men may appear at Taunton Sessions "and not be further trobled conſing this busines," etc.

39. An order for the better explanation of an order set down at Ivelchester Sessions last, viz. that whereas James Balche hath received £20 from Sir Bartholomew Mitchell, Kt., late Treasurer

of hospitals for the Easter division, he is now to have £20 more from Sir Henry Hawly, Kt, treasurer of hospitals at his going out of his office, and £20 the next year, etc.

Ordered that Thomas Lott who had been committed for misdemeanors towards Mr. Francis Baber, Esqr., etc., having submitted himself to him the said Mr. Baber, etc., should be set at liberty.

40. A licence granted at the Taunton Sessions 14 July, 10 James I., upon a Certificate from "the Reverent the Lord bushoppe of Winton," to John Barry to erect a cottage upon the waste of the parish of Corfe within the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane.

John Portman, Jo. Malet, Nich. Haswell, Thomas Bridges, Edmund Rogers, Tho. Phellypps, Edw. Hext, Henry Walrond.

41. At the same Sessions—

An order made for the bringing up of a child at Staple-grove.

42. The Petition to the Justices at the same Sessions, 1612, of John Kinglake of Gregoristocke, etc., weaver, "that whereas yo^r poore Suppliante about St. Peter's Day in the Nighte Laste paste the Howse hold stuffe Corne and other things of yo^r poore Suppliants amountting to the value of One hundred pounds or theire abouts was burned and consvmed wth fyer and yo^r poore Suppliant's wife and Children were also in great Danger of Burninge moste pittifull to be seen to the great hurte and vtter vndoing of yo^r poore Suppliante, his wife and fyve smale Children, etc. Prays for relief.

"It is ordered by us that this bearer John Kinglake of Gregorystoke shall receive at this psent Sessions towards his great losse by fyer fyve pounds," etc., further relief to be considered by the next Sessions.

43. A deed poll signed by Roger Newborough of Barkeley, co. Somerset, Esquier, Edward fallowes parson of Barkeley, John Whitocke, Constable of the Town and Hundred of ffrome,

William Dixe [signs Dickes] "Baylif," etc., George Heskens, Edward Cooke, William Moodye, and sealed with the Town Seal etc., stating that on the 12th instant of July last past a fire had happined in the house of one Joan Wilcox, widow, and Thomas Wilcox, of Barkley, Broodweaver, burning down the dwelling house and houses of the said Joan and Thomas and also the shop and working houses of the said Thomas and therein also burned "three broad weavers lomes and one kersey lome," etc., "Doe nowe therefore desire yo^r Charitable Releif and benevolence for the better helpinge of the said Joan and Thomas," etc. Dated the xth of July Ao. Dni. 1612.

Order made at the Taunton Sessions for the payment of £5 to them on sight hereof.

44. At the petty Sessions holden at Pensford the 18th day of April, 1612, before Sr. Thomes Bridges, Knight and ffrauncs Baber, esquier.

"Imp^{is} wee doe p'sent that John Perce of Midsoff Norton, etc., Taylor hath kept an Ale howse in Norton aforesaid ever sithince Michaelmas laste and hath sould lesse then an Ale quarte of his beste beer for a peny divers severall Sondayes in his said howse since Christide last and yesterdaye he did the like," etc.

45. 4^o die Aprilis, 1612.

Certificate of Sir Maurice Barkley, Kt. and William Swanton Esqre. as to their finding of the matter of Jonadabb Pullyre and Arthur Gregory, John Gregory, and John Meggs, etc. The name of the parish not given.

To the Justices at the Taunton Sessions, Certificate dated the 14th of July, 1612, signed by Giles Barde, Richard Welsowry, John Sweeting, Jun. and Giles Sweeting that the bearer Symon Pepping had given a sufficient discharge for a child born in the parish of Bicknaller.

46. "To the right Wor^{sh} Sr John Portman, Kt. and Baronett, Thomas Warre, Esquire, and the rest of the Justices at the bench assembled."

The humble peticon of Thomas Shalder, "Stating that he and Davey Westbrooke had been bound for the appearance of

Edmond Manswell of Wellington," who was bound over at Wells Sessions last for an assault and battery, "for the which he hath not been pcecuted never since," and that at the time the said Manswell should have appeared "he was in Wilsheire, where he had broken his legg, soe that by noe meanes he could not travell to appeare at the sayd Sessions:" he therefore asks that his recognizance may be discharged.

Thomas Shalder.

47. At the same Sessions at Taunton. "Whereas yt appeareth vnto vs that William Stowey of Cutcombe, in the said Countye, Laborer, havinge a Wife and fyve Children, and hath benn three severall tymes prest into Ireland and ffraunce for her late Maties Service in which he served by the space of Sixe yeres, And there receaved dyvers hurtes and maymes in his lyms and body, As by his peticon and passe more playnly appeareth, We therefore have thought it fitt, And doe hereby order that he shall nowe at this Sessions receive from the Treasurer of the maymed Soldiers of this Countye, the some of thirtie shillings towards his releefe."

John Portman,
Nich : Halswell,
Edw. Hext,
Tho : Warre,
Fra : Baber,
John ffarewell.

48. Decimo die January, 1611. An order made by John Maye and Nathaniell Still, Esquiers, etc., for and concerning a child born in the parish of Compton Bishop [epi].

49. Wee the Collectors and Churchwardens of the pishe of Compton Epi, doe certifie that this order was pformed by the parties whin named according to the order.

William Say and	} Collectors.
James Thruston.	
John Wrintmore,	} Churchwardens.
Edward Tuthill,	

50. Nono die Julij, 1612. An order made by John Maye and John Rattle, Esquiers, etc., for and concerning a child born in the parish of Wedmore. 2*d*. a week to be paid towards its maintenance.

51. The 15th daye of Jullie, anno domini, 1612, etc., certificate by the Overseers and churchwardens of the parish of Wedmore, that the father of the child had "putt in bond according to the order sett downe," etc.

52. An order dated the 15th day of July, 1612, for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Walton.

Edw. Hext,
Edward Rogers.

53. The 27th day of June, 1612. An order made by Thomas Bridges, Knight, and Francis Baber, Esqr, etc., for the relief and maintenance of a child born at Chew.

BOOK 16.

SESSIONS ROLLS, 10, 11 JAMES I., 1612, 1613.

1. "A Briefe of the misdemeano^{rs} committed by Thomas Burde of Liddeard Epi Tayler, and now in the gaole, wth request there to remaine for examples sake to Peter Sindercombe of Liddeard aforesaid and other suche his Confederates that threaten to kill the Constable or other officer or whatsoe^r that shall either by Warrant or otherwise seek to bringe him before the Justice," etc.

John ffrauncis,
Hūfrey Windham.

2. Objections against John Maryne for the good behavior w^{ch} I graunted against him and bound by Sr Edward Hexte. "Impris he is by pfession a hooper, but lyveth very Idelly from

place to place, but comonly at Curryryvell in an Alehows, where the man and the wife haveing but one bedd, the saide Maryne lyeth wth them both; not longe agone findinge one Anthony Wodd, who hath but one legge, in honest and peaceable Company Challenged him to fight wth him, etc.

There ys at Puckington one Margery Parsley, that hath a base Child, she lade yt to the said Maryne, etc.

Tho. Phelyppes.

3. Charges against Mathewe Nashion for beating Thomas Burd's wife, etc. [Not dated.]

No place is mentioned, but it probably took place in Bishop Lydeard.

4. A brief to give yo^r wor^{pp}s to vnderstand of the vniust dealings of John Watts of Sutton, w^{hin} the pishe of Murlinch, etc.

Signed by Bawden Mallet, Robert Torres, Will. Gapper, Robert Nunney and others.

5. Information against Julian Evill or Evel by the inhabitants of Poyntington, etc., the 13th of September, 1613.

6. Part of the causes objected against Richard Hollway tithingman of Cloford, bound over to the Ilchester Sessions by Mr. Hopton and Mr. Bisse, and there bound to the good behaviour etc.

7. An Order taken and agreed on at Yarde by us, Sr John Wyndham, Knighte and John Trevelian, Esq^{er}, taken the xxjxth day of July, A^o dni 1613, concerning the relief of a child born at Huishe chamflower, etc.

8. Certificate dated Whitlackington, this 19th of Octobr, 1613, signed by Sir George Speke, Sir Tho. Phelyppes and "the Waie Warders for this yeare," Thomas Poole and William Aishton, that a way in the tithing of Whitlackington and Autherston leading from Hurcott towards Kingston, which had been presented by a Jury at the Sessions holden at

Ivelchester last, as being somewhat foundeours, by means whereof the people could not well pass, which way is (and also was before the feast of Penticoste laste) "very well and sufficiently repaired and amended, that no fault there now may lawfully be found by any passenger, where these may assure you of the truth hereof," etc.

B. [Bridgewater], xj^o.

9. Order made that George Myles of the town of Mynhead, who had received great loss by fire which happened the vth of May last to his utter undoing, should have £10 given him.

p Cur Jo : Mallet,	Edw. Hext,
Nich : Haswell,	Edward Rogers,
Thomas Bridges,	Tho : Warre,
John Trevilian.	

9a. Order made at the same Court that for as much as it was truly certified by sufficient testimony of divers of the inhabitants of Holford, that John Harsell of Holford aforesaid, tippler "doth keepe many misdemeanors and ill orders in his house, to the great disturbance and greefe of his neighbors theare Dwellinge, that the s^d John Harsell shalbe suppressed from sellenge ale and that the constable or Constables of hundred of Whitley shall take away his licens from him."

10. It was ordered at the same Sessions [at Bridgwater the 14th day of September 1613] that if any two persons settled in any parish within this county by the space of one year or upwards being not impotent shall intermarry that the Churchwardens or Overseers for the poor or any others of the parishioners there shall not be any way bound to provide them with any house until they shall become impotent and not able to relieve themselves. But if they being married and able to provide them a house that the churchwardens nor any other shall lay any tax upon any that shall so let them a house for their money or will sell them a plot to build a house on.

11. Ordered at this Sessions that whereas Edith Bowen of Wrington widow standeth not only indicted for barratry and

battery by several inhabitants but also the inhabitants of Wrington have certified the bench of divers other misdemeanors by her committed. It is ordered that if she offend again or misbehave herself, that then the consideration of her punishment be referred to Mr. May and Mr. Rattle "to whipp her at a carts tayle" or to inflict any other punishment upon her as they shall think fit in their discretion.

12. "I Henry Watteres dwelt with Mr. fisher of Hewich vij yeares.

I dwelt with John Mashall one year at Hewich.

I dwelt with Richard Hackere one yeare at Hewich.

I dwelt with Rabart Gennings of Cory Evell iij yeares.

I dwelt at Mocheny for the yeare.

The last that I dwelt with was Henry becknell of aller ij yeares.

I woulde hartelie intreate that I might be derected to the Almehouse of Curriereeuill.

I haue dwelte at Lamporte since Bartholomew daye last was twelue moneth. To be pvided for at Aller pCur."

13. Certificate dated the third of Sepr. 1613 signed by Nicholas Browse vicar of Minehead, George Qwyerke, Walter Slocombe, Constables and ten other of the inhabitants of Minehead stating that the bearer thereof "Margrett Lewes a poore distressed gentlewoman and our honest neighbor, who hath lived in Mynehead almost theise xxx^{ti} yeres" etc. "had of late viz. on the xxjth day of May last past her dwellinge howse wth all her goods to the valewe of fiftie pounds sodanly consumed and burnte" etc., "the fire flaminge into her howse before she knewe of y^t w^{ch} thinge happened by a carelesse neighbor of hers" etc. Do humbly "intreate your worships by some charitable means to releive and comforte this pore afflicted wydowe" etc. £5 is given to her etc.

14. At the Sessions 1612:

Respecting the running away from Norton of the father of a child.

15. 3rd day of July, 1613.

Certificate by Robt. Languishe and Henry Hunt, Churchwardens of Winsecombe and Thomas Hobbes, John Morse and Thomas Cable overseers that a bond had been given for the keep, etc., of a child.

16. Certificate at the Taunton Sessions of John Whippie and John Burgs, Churchwardens, and Richard Lewokings and John Goodhinde of Whitchurch that a security had been put in for the maintenance of a child. Dated at Whitchurch 1st of July, 1613.

17. Order made at the Taunton Sessions on the 6th July 11 James I. that John Tucker als Parker might build him a house on his one acre of land near unto Crewkerne subject to the consent of "the Lorde of the soil," etc.

18. Petition of John Tucker als Parker of Crewkerne etc., Feltmaker.

19. Petition of the Constable Overseers of the poor and side men of St. James [Taunton] to the Worth Thomas Warre Esquier and the rest of the Justices now assembled.

"May it please y^{or} wo^rps that whereas in Anno Dni 1607 Thomas Gibbens and Henry Allen Churchwardens of St. James aforesayde received into theire handes the some of twenty poundes which was made by them that yere to have benn employed by the genall consent of the sayde pishe in Charatable vses for the good of the poore of the sayde pishe in manner followinge viz. Tenn pounds thereof yerely for ever then after to be bestowed in twoe thowsande of woode faggotts for the releif and good of the poore of the sayde pishe w^{ch} bought by the pennye and the sayde x^{li} to be deliued over at eu^y yeres end vnto the nowe p^r wardens and soe to be contynued for ever etc." [The money had been misapplied and the faggots discontinued] etc., "there are certen lands and tenem^{ts} belonginge to the sayde pishe of the yerely value of xiiij^{li} p^r Ann w^{ch} should be employed by the Churchwardens and o^useers of the poore for the reliefe of the poore there" etc., (the pishe beinge very full) etc. "They humbly desire that y^{or} wo^rps wilbe pleased to

examyne the truth of this busn'ess And that you will likewise take such further order therein that the abuses thercaof may be reformed."

"The names of those that did giue theire consente that the x^{li} should be employed for ever in faggotts to the vse of the pore

Mr. Thomas Brereton
John Davidge
John Warman
Roger Chaplen

Mr. Richard Pearce
Robert Huishe
Robte Godd
Richard Kingesburie

Henry Allen } Wardens.
Thomas Gibbens }

20. At the Taunton Sessions 6 July, 1613, it was ordered that William Tirrell of Mynehead etc., Shooemaker by means of his great loss by fire etc., should be paid £6 13s. 4d.

20a. X^{ls} for Robt. Bradford who had tymber fallen vpon him, xx^s at Bridgwater Sessions and xx^s at, etc.

21. The Petition in favour of the said William Tirrill of Minehead dated the 26th of June, 1613, signed by the vicar, the two constables and twenty-one others.

21a. Righte wor^{uill} (our humble Duties remembered). Wee the pishsofs of Mynehead Doe humblie intreate yo^r wor^{pps} to disburthen the poore towne aforesaid of one Raphe Tucker whose wyffe (because shee was borne at Mynehead) beinge found vagrant and begginge contrarie to the lawe was by the right Wor^{uill} Sir John Wyndhm, Knight, sent to vs by passe. Not longe after the said Raphe came thither also, And forthwth went into the countrie to begge was taken at Oldcleue and committed to p^{son} for robbinge of a barne, And at the assises followinge Discharged, Wandringe againe was taken at Wemdon, by Bridgwater, and againe committed to prison, for breakinge of a howse theare at tyme of Diuine service, yet by mercy shewed againe freed. In this meane tyme one Whole yere is ended whereappon, he stoutlie vrgeth to inhabite wth vs in Mynehead,

A place fallen into greate povertie by meanes of the late sicknes, the Dearth of corne, fire and other such disaster accidents happeninge to the same town, And further wee certified yo^r good wor^{PPs} that this Raphe and his wyffe, are people verie vnfit to be suffered to wander ffor theire practize is nothinge els but begginge, stealing (and wth reuence [reverence] be yt spoken) quarrellinge and Raylinge, they beinge younge valiant and stronge vse no honest arte or labour at all to gett theire lyvinge. In consideracon whereof, maie yt please yo^r good wor^{PPs} to take some course wth them that the poore place be not troubled wth them, And wee shall e^l bee bound to pray for yo^r prosperitie As knoweth th'Almightie, vnto whose good graces wee commend you, Mynehead this vijth of July, 1613.

22. Order made at the Sessions referring the hearing and ordering of this cause to Sir John Windham, Kt. George Luttrell, and John Trevelyan, Esq^r, or to any two of them 7th July, 1613.

Orders made at the Sessions at Taunton xj James I.

23. The humble petition of ffancys ffursey to the Justices at the same Sessions that whereas James Greedy and Joane his wife of Milverton, etc. people of lewd conversation and naughty demeanor have cunningly and by their wicked persuasions enticed and drawn one Valentine ffursey of Halse, etc., a very simple and plain fellow from his dwelling house and have conveyed him to live in some place, unknown to any of his friends, and before his departure have seized upon all the goods that he had not leaving to your supplt his wife and a child which she hath the meat and drink left in the house at his departure nor to his wife her wearing apparel, etc. Asks for such order against Greedy and his wife that your poor suppliant be relieved and her wrongs redressed, etc.

24. An order made the 15th day of June, 1613, by John Symes and Robert Cuffe, Esq^{res} on two men for the payment of 3d. a week each for the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Kingston.

25. An order made the 6th of July 1612 by Sir Thomas Phelyppes and Sir Edward Hext relieving the parish of Huish from the keeping of a child that was born there.

26. Petition of Arthur Jeffery one of the Collectors of the poor of the parish of Bledon against the keeping by that parish of one Ralfe Bennett and his wife an old impotent man being a Smyth by his profession or trade, who was for ten years or more quietly settled in a dwelling house of his own within the parish of Hutton, and who had worked in Bledon about one year and then departed again, etc.

27. An order made the 24th of March, 1612, by Sir Edward Hext and John Symcocks, Esqre., for the keeping of Dyna Hellier a base woman child born in the parish of Baltonsbury.

28. An order made by John Symes and Thomas Warre, Esqres. for the keeping and bringing up of a woman child laid down at the Spittle horse near Taunton [in the parish of Munckton]. Indorsed Orders Taunton undecimo.

29. Letter dated the 13th of April, 1613, written by John Maye, Esqre. to his "very loving cosen Mr. Thomas Warr, Esqr. at Ivelchester," respecting the tithingman in Felton, etc.

30. Order made at the General Sessions held at Wells the 12th day of January, 10th James I. [1612-3] that the matter of the petition of John Yorke and divers others the inhabitants of the tithing of ffelton, viz., that Richard Kinge, William Horte and Richard Griffin do refuse to take upon them the office of tithingman be referred unto Sir Hugh Smith and Sir Edward Gorgs, Knights, John Maye, Joseph Rattle, Esquiers or to any two of them, etc.

Order made by the Court [xj^c] on the finding of these Justices, etc.

31. Articles exhibited against Stevin Billstone *als* Lurtins of the parish of Cloverd, 14th April, 1613.

For selling drink without licence and harbouring bad characters.

32. Orders that Leonard Millard of Evercreech a man very aged and lame in one of his hands should have and hold his cottage with the garden plot if he could procure the leave of John Penny the owner of the ground.

32*a*. Order made [xj^o] that John Hurford, Richard Hygdon, thelder, Richard Higdon the younger, Gyles Lockyer, W^m. Cutler and Andrew Raynd of the parish of Broad Marston should take upon them the keeping of one Richard Hygdon of Broad Marston son of W^m. Higdon, deceased, who is now "luniticke" by means whereof he doth offend and wrong many of his neighbours there dwelling to their great trouble, and "greeffe," etc., in his own house if they can rule him there or otherwise that they shall cause him to be sent unto the Bridewell by virtue of this order, etc.; to take an inventory of all his goods and chattels and that they may sell or otherwise dispose of the said goods for and towards the relief of the said "luniticke," etc.

32*b*. Order made that Pawle Deemes of Kingsbury a very poor man (who had procured leave under the hand and seal of Edward Rogers, Esq^r. being now lord of the said manor) to build a house at some convenient place within the said manor, etc.

"Orders to be entered of Ivelchester xj^o."

33. An order made the 27th day of February, 10th James I. for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Donyatt, Geo. Speke, Henry Walrond, Chrystofer Preston.

34. An order made by Sir Thomas Phyllippes, Kt. and Henry Walrond, Esq^{re}. for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Ashill—Ilmister the 20th day of March, 1612-3.

35. Application and permission given (with the consent of Edward Rogers, Esq^{re}, Lord of the Manor) to Pawle Deemes, being a very poor man and having a wife and four children and

who was born within the parish of Kingsbury to build a house there.

Church Wardens for this yeare Ano. Dni. 1612, is John Clarke and Roberte Bragge.

Thomas Lavor signum	} Overseers of the poore.
G. R. Georgy Radbird	
syned Johnnes Stuckey	
John Ostler.	

36. Petition by Leonard Millerd, a man very aged and lame in one of his hands so that he is not able to labour and work for his living as he hath done to the maintenance of himself, his poor wife and children, etc., for licence to continue in a poor house, a cottage, erected upon a plot of ground of one John Pennys in the parish of Euerchrich who had given his consent etc.

37. *Somerset*.—xv^o die Septembris, 1612.

"Whereas there hath bene a Commission awarded out of his Mat^{ies} high Court of Chancery vpon the statute made for reformaton of misimployment of Lands geuen to Charytable vses directed vnto S^r John Portman, Knyght and Barronett, Thomas Warr, John Symes Esq^{rs} and others his Mat^{ies} Justices of peace in this County, vppon execution of the same Co^mission it appeareth vnto the sayd Co^missioners vpon the oaths of certen examynats that one Humfry Quych late of Westmounckton in the said County decessed heretofore hath taken away and imbeseled such wrytings and evydencs as did concerne the ordering and governynge of the Almes howse in Westmounckton in the said County of Som^{ers}sett comonly called the Spittle howse And for as much as it appeared vnto the sayd Co^missioners in licke man^r that thelection of the Governor of the same howse for the tyme being and the poore ther placed and the ording therof haue bene by the Consent of too Justics of Peace ther next adioynnyng and the Church Wardens and Overseers for the poor of the sayd pish of Westmounckton yt is therfore nowe ordered at the Gef^{all} Sessions by the Consents of the whole bench that ffrome hencefourth the said election and ordering of the said howse and people togeut^{er} wth the

renewes therunto belonging shall be by Consents of too Justices of peace ther next adioynnyng for the tyme being and the church Wardens and overseers of the poore of the pish of Westmounckton aforesayd for the tyme being, And that one George Orchard is in lick manⁿ nowe elected to be the Governer of the howse and famyly ther and so to contynewe at the will and pleasure of the sayd Justices, Church Wardens and overseers behaveing hymself orderly."

Intrat^r.

John Portman,
Robert Hopton,
John ffravncis,
Robrt. Cuff,

Nich. Halswell,
Tho. Sowthworth,
Natha Still.

38. Order made that all differences between John Gover and Margery Copstone who by virtue of an attachment had violently thrust the said Gover out of possession and had detained all his goods who although when the said Copstone had indicted the said Gover at the last Assizes for felony the bill was found by the grand Jury ignoramus, should be heard etc. by Sr. Thomas Phelipps, Sr. Edward Hext and Christofer Preston, Esqre. General Sessions at Ilchester 13th April, 11 James I.

39. A recognizance taken at Wivelescombe before John ffravncis and Humfrey Windham Esq^{rs}. the 16th of Dec. 10th James I., against keeping an Alehouse [name obliterated].

40. An order made the 9th of January, 1612, by Henry Walrond and Cristofer Preston, Esqre. for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Chard.

41. An order made the 8th of October, 1612, by Henry Walrond, John Symes, Chrystofer Preston, Esqre. for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Chard.

42. An order made at Netherham the 18th of October, 1612, by Sir Edw. Hext. and Robert Cuff, Esqre. for the keeping of Margery Moone born in the parish of Othery.

43. Ordered that licence is graunted to Richard Councell of Wedmore to buy butter and cheese wthin the same Countie and to be a Comon badger of butter and cheese according to the statute and the same to sell in Wilts, Hampton, and Devon and to return out of the s^d Counties wth three horses.

Order made at the Sessions referring the question of the place of settlement of Margaret Jones to Mr. May and Mr. Rattle.

44. "To the Worth Thomas Warre Esquire and the rest of his Ma^{ties} Justices of the peace nowe att Bench.

The humble petition of John Pearce of Midsomer Norton, etc., atte a pettye Sessions holden att Pensforde in the absence of yo^r peticoner (he beinge a tipler, licensed) your said Peticoner was presented for selling lesse then an ale quarte for a pennye of his best beere contrary to the Statute, And afterwards at the quarter Sessions last holden att Taunton by meanes of that p^rsentm^t he was discharged from Tiplinge, for the space of three years.

He humblie praieth for that he was absent at the tyme of the presentment (And beinge ignorant in traversinge the said presentment the same beinge altogether vntrue) And for that also the house wherein he Dwelleth hath ben a vsuall victuallinge house by the space of Thirtie yeres past and himselfe the Prince's Bailefe there That the examinacon of this cause maie be referred for better manifestinge the truth thereof," etc.

"This is referred to Sr. Thomas Bridgs, Kt., and James Bisse esquier wheather he be fitt to tipple or noe."

45. Order made at the General Sessions at Wells, 12th of January, 10 James I., that £10 in addition to the £10 previously ordered to be paid to William Linterne and Nicholas Mabstone of the Town of Glaston Clothiers towards repairing of their loss sustained by fire should be paid to them.

Maur. Barkeley, E. Gorgs, John Maye, Fra. Baber, Tho. Hughes, Tho. Sowthworth.

46. Order made upon the petition of Christopher Smalland

of Mychell Creech who was maimed in Ireland for the payment to him of forty shillings out of the hospital money, etc.

Nich. Halswell, Tho. Warre, James Bysse, Robert Cuffe,
John Maye, Tho. Symcocks.

47. Articles of misdemeanor to be objected against Elizabeth Leaker the supposed wife of Atewell Leaker of Aishotte, etc.

Imprimis sythens the last Sessions the said Elizabeth hath sworn the peace at London against divers honest and peable men and namely against Arthur Thorne, Charles Crosse, gent, Willm Solamon and Silfeter Hodges and hath thereupon procured process against the said parties and hath sythens caused some of them to be thereupon arrested who have entered into bonds for their appearance in the Crown Office, etc.

48. "Articles to be objected against Henrie Bendell of the pishe of Westburie in the countie aforesaide Tipler.

Imprimis the saide Henrie Bendell hathe sold ale and kept a tipling howse for the space of one yere and half notwithstanding that he had no license so to doe and Sr John Rodney Knight in his life time did affirme that he should have no license of him because he knew him a man unfit for the same, and also dwellethe oute of the towne in the fild, out of the most vsuall way for travellers,

Itm he dothe not keepe the assise of breade and ale according to the statute, and hath refused to serue the poore for their redie mony, when he hathe had bothe ale and breade in his howse.

Itm he hathe vsually kept in his howse the children and servants of the inhabitants of the saide pishe of Westbury aswell by night as in the time of Devine seruice on the Sondaies and holydayes, and they haue bin there so longe that they haue fowght and comitted bludshed to the greate disturbance of the neere neighbors.

Itm the saide Bendell hathe bin complained of at the pettie Sessions and no reformacon had, and sithens he hath bin complained to the right Wo^{ll} Mr Doctor James and Mr Maye : and althowghe Mr May hathe bounde him over to the quart. Sessions yet he hathe continued his

disorders in his howse as toofores; And now lately before Christmas last (it is credibly reported) that one Walter Holmes and John Browning that came lately out of the gayle were entertained in his howse and shortly after that the saide Holmes stole oxen and is againe sent to the gayle.

Yor humble orators

John Hardwiche sen.

John Boulting

in the names of sundry the inhabitants of Westbury aforesaide."

49. Petition of the parishioners of North Cheriton stating that the said parish had been before that time overcharged and too highly rated towards the maintenance and relief of the maimed soldiers and hospitals. Pray that the examination of this cause may be referred to the hearing of the next Justices there next adjoining etc. Referred to S^r Mawrice Barkeley and M^r. Swanton.

50. A Petition of the Churchwardens and Overseers of Compton Bushop to the Justices of the Peace assembled at Wells complaining that one Margaret Jones, late of Cheddar, spinster, had been sent from Wells to them although she had never dwelt within their parish, nor never was known to be there above two nights together and that above two years past etc. Referred to M^r. May and M^r. Rattle.

51. Certificate by Tho. Bracke and Will Reeve, Churchwardens of Cheddar, that William Martin the Younger had put in security to discharge the parishioners of Cheddar of the child of Vrsula Virgin.

52. Petition of William Marten the younger of Cheddar to the Justices assembled at Wells stating that about Christmas last "was twelve moneth" he took to wife one Elizabeth Davedge widow who at the time of her intermarriage with your petitioner had one little child of the age of three years. And about Whit-Sunday last the said Elizabeth died leaving the

said child vnto your petitioner, who is so poor that he is not by any means able to relieve the said child etc., humbly desireth that some order may be taken that the said child may be relieved by the said parish of Chedder or elsewhere, or else that the uncles of the child "being verie ritch men" may be ordered to keep the same child otherwise the child is like to perish for want etc.

53. Petition to the Justices at these present Sessions of James Hurde a poor labourer stating that for these two years last past he had dwelt in the parish of Westcrenmore "in a house w^{ch} he hired for his monie," and had taken great pains to maintain himself his wife and two children wherewith he never yet charged the said parish nor hopeth ever to do. And yet the parishioners and churchwardens there, Do "indeauor" and threaten to turn your petitioner out of their parish unless he will put in sufficient sureties not to charge the said parish which he cannot by reason he is but a poor Labourer etc. Humbly requests that he may quietly inhabit in the said parish so long as he does not charge the same otherwise he and his family are like to perish.

54. Certificate by "we whose names are vnder written of the prishe of Westone Super mare" that the child the which John Lock the bearer hereof was bound over for etc., is dead and was buried in the said parish of Weston sup mare the 5th day of October last past etc. Dated 11th day of January 1612.

William Crowse Curat.
George M^rshall.

John Rogers }
John Daie } Churchwardens.
John Leveredge.

55. Petition of John Yeorke and divers other of the inhabitants of the Tything of ffelton to Sir Morrice Barkeley Knt. and the rest of the Justices at the Sessions at Wells complaining that Richard King Willm Horte and Richard Griffen had refused to take upon them the office of Tythingman

to the intollerable trouble and charge of the rest of the inhabitants etc., requests that the Justices near adjoining to have the hearing of the matter.

Referred to S^r Hugh Smith and Sir Edward Gorgs Knights, John Maye and Joseph Rattle Esquiers etc.

56. Petition of John Cox late of Saltfoord, ffuller who since he was three years old been dwelling there being about xxxviiiij years etc., "John Goodding at our Lawe daie at Kainsham Did amerce my Land Lord in xl^s for the voiding of which my Land Lord Thomas Shute did: after he had put me out of his Mills" etc., then being destitute and voyd of a howse could not gett any one for my mony by meanes wherof I was constrained to forsake the pish which hath byne my vtter vndoing" etc., in most humble manner do intreate your worships to be good unto me a poor man etc. To Sir Thomas Bridges Kt. M^r ffraunces Barber and all the rest etc. Anno Dni 1612 John Cox, Robert Tebbetts, Thomas Shute, Robert Tebett, John Welche, Thomas Goodhine, John Psonns. Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges and Sir Edward Gorgs Knights etc.

57. Letter from William Skoriar or Skoryier, Governor of the house of Correction at Taunton, to "Ser Edward Hext, Ser Nycolas Halswell, Knyghts, Thomas Ware, Crystover preston, John Symes, Robert Coffe, esquyers, geve thes."

"Ryght worshipfuls my Dutye in moste Hymble wysse Done may it please youe that at the ffunerall of my Honorable and espesyall good ffrende Ser John portemane, your wills weare that I shoulde putt youe in mynde of then my p^rsente estate as was then by my Surgane geven to youe to vnderstand by meanes of agrevos Hurte w^{ch} I Reseved, that I coulde not atende your worships at this sessyons to doe my Dutye as I shoulde have Done, maye it please youer to servaye the acownt w^{ch} Heare with all youe shall Reseave of x^{li} w^{ch} was delyvered vnto M^r Thomas ffyshier of Tanto, and master Thomas Whit one of the Constables of the Hundred of Tanton, thaye beinge apoynted for the Reedyfyng of the house of Corectyone in Tato to be over seers apoynted by Ser John portmane, Knight and baronet and John Symes, esquier, the sayed Howse beinge so fare Rone

in to Reparatyone by means of the late Governer before my selfe, that hade not Ser John portmane and M^r Symes spedyllye taken order for the Reparynge of the sayed Howse all the Cheffeste Rooms Had fallen to the grownde thearfore yf it shall please your worships for the endinge of the worke begone, to geve your order for the delyverye of x^{li} more to the sayed overseers, M^r ffyshier and M^r white, frome the treasurer of the Hospitas w^{ch} is Ser Henrye Haully, it wilbe verye benyfysall for the contrye, and I shalbe the better able to doe my dutye, for nowe I have toe onlye Roomes that I cane detayne anye pryssoners that your worships shall send me, and thesse toe Roomes are as yeat verye symple, but hopinge of your worships futherance and favor in this my petyssyon, I hope it shalbe to all your good lykings and to the subpressyone of vagrante and ydle Rogs, this not Dowtinge of all your worships favor, I leave youe all to the protectyone of the moste Higheste I will praye Daylye for all your Healths to his good pleassure. Taunton this xijth day of Januarye, 1612, your servante to be comanded to all dutye.

Willyam Skoryer."

58. The account of the money paid for the repairs done at the House of Correction at Taunton in the year 1612, referred in the preceding letter.

59. Right wo^rs let it please yo^u to be auertised that there is inhabitinge amongste vs in the pish of Henton, one Elizabeth Busher, wiffe of one Robert Busher of lewde life and conuersacon, As namely the mother of diuers basse children, the suspected maintainer of incontinenecie in her owne house, the continuall Disturber of her neighbors quietnes and threatninge of mischieffe against them, And lastlie both reputed and feared to be a dangerous witch thorow the vntimely Death of men, woemen and children w^{ch} she hath hated, threatned and handled as by divers Articles p^rferred against her, to this wo^rs bench may be pceaved, And when as att the last Secions at Taunton thorow the late comminge to the Secions of M^r. John ffarewell, Justice of the peace, who then bound her ouer And had the Articles

of her misdemeanure in his possession, She was thorow frindship called vpon and Dismiste without examinacōn or hearinge, wth condicon that she should humble her selfe to one William Bennett, an honest liver whom she had much abused, And live little more sober and better governed w^{ch} command she hath so much transgressed, that insteede of repentance she hath agravated more mischieffe against him and other her neighbo^{rs}. And hath of late contemned the Justice warrant And railed at the officers w^{ch} come to execute it vpon her, And so doth liue about woods and obscure places w^{thout} obedience to the lawes of god and this land, And to the terrour of her neighbo^{rs}, Theirefore we humbly beseeche that some expresse course may be taken by the consente of the whole benche for her apprehendinge and punishmente, And so we reffer the Dew consideracon to yo^r wor^s graue vnderstandinges.

Y^{rs} wo^s at command,

Willm. Horton, esq^r,
Tobias Horton, esq^r,
John Horton, gent,
Nichus Hobbs, gent,

William Write, Constable,
John fflower, Tythingman,
Roger Davys,
Edw: Poyner,
Richard Jeffery,
Witta Jeffery,
Richard Symes.

Warrant for good behaviour against Elizabeth Busher.

60. Application by John Vile to Sir Edward Hexte, Kt. and the rest of his Majestie's Justices, that Edmond Vile, son of William Vile of Stratton, who was about two years since apprenticed to John Hobman of Barrington Taylor for seven years, might be released from his apprenticeship, his master having run away.

Consent given "in regard that his M^r is runneth is pved by oath," etc.

61. Petition by the churchwardens, overseers and others of the parish of Weare, to the Justices at their Sessions, that "our poor neighbours John Paens," having a wife and five small children, etc., who with his father-in-law John fflower

of the parish of Badgwoorth had given a bond to Richard fuller, of the borough of Axbridge, gent, for £14 and by the extraordinary death of the said John fowler had to pay the same, while the wife of the said John fowler had charge but her self and having a living of the "valuer" of xxx^{ti} Acres by estimation yearly worth xvj^s or thereabouts per annum : They therefore pray your worships that she may allow yearly towards the maintenance of this his great charge, such allowance as your worships shall think fit, etc.

Signed by the churchwardens and other inhabitants.

REGISTER NO. I.

A folio volume of 430 leaves. The contents extend from the Taunton Sessions (July) 1613 to Bridgwater (Michaelmas) 1620, inclusive. The first and last leaves are very defective, and part of the beginning is lost altogether, how much cannot now be told.

TAUNTON (JULY), 1613.

All that remains of the work of the Taunton Sessions are some orders set down below, which have been supplemented by some other orders contained in a rough minute book.

1. Bastardy order on John Marler and William Warren of Ruishton, made by John Symes and Robert Cuffe, 15th June, 1613.
2. Bastardy order on John King of Baltonsbury, made by Sir Edw. Hext and Thomas Symcockes, 24th March, 1612-3.
3. Bastardy order on Richard Alvyn of Pytminster, made by Sir Tho. Phelippes and Sir Edw. Hext, 6th July, 1613.
4. Result of a reference made from the last Taunton Sessions concerning the parentage of a woman child laid down at the Spittle house near Taunton. Christian Courte sometime called Andrewes is the mother, and Alexander Andrewes of West Hatch is the father, on whom a bastardy order is made by John Symes and Thomas Warr.
5. Emme Carter the wife of Richard Carter of Frome being now lunatic whereby her neighbours stand greatly in doubt lest

she should put in practice some mischievous attempt to set on fire where she dwelleth : Ordered that she shall be sent to the House of Correction at Ivelchester where she ought to be kept in such manner as the law requireth for all such dangerous and disordered persons.

6. The examination of the settlement of Rafe Sennett on the petition of Arthur Jeffery one of the collectors of the poor in Bleadon is referred to John Maye, Nathaniell Still and John Rattle, esquires, or any two of them, to order and determine therein.

Additional Orders made at the Taunton Quarter Sessions, 1613. Taken from rough Minute Book No. I.

7. (1) Richard Hollway to be discharged of his office of tithingmanship [of Claford] and another to be chosen by the next Justices. [S.R., xvi, 6.]

8. (2) The Justices of peace within their several limits shall call before them all the tipplers and appoint them to sell according to the standard of Winchester.

9. (3) Mr. Edward Popham to be Treasurer of the Hospitals of the easter division, and Mr. Brereton for the west division.

10. (4) The Constables to see the statute for Rogues and Vagabonds put in due execution, and that the said Constables give notice to all the inhabitants within their several limits that they apprehend all such suspected persons coming to their doors begging and carry them to the next officer, and the constables to answer upon their oaths whether they execute their office duly at the [].

11. (5) It being questioned this Sessions whether a covenant servant for one year departing out of his service at the end of the same year and going to service to another Master in another parish, and after while he is in his second service he happen to be maimed, by what parish he ought to be maintained, either

where he served the year before, or where he was maimed. To be argued at the next Sessions.

12. (6) Richard Mogridge of Carhampton shall pay to the overseers of Dunster six pence for every week sithence the birth of the base child of Mary Edbrooke until this Sessions; and if he refuse to perform this order, to be bound to the good behaviour by the next Justice.

13. (7) An order set down by [] and Sir N. Halswell for ten pounds to be paid to provide for repairing the House of Correction at Taunton by a reference from the last Sessions. [S.R., xvi, 57: Letter from Will. Skoriar governor of the House, 12 Jan. 1612-3; No, 58, account of money paid for repairs in 1612.]

14. (8) Marmaduke Vye shall have 3*li.* 6*sh.* 8*d.* for keeping John Parker a child born in the gaol of Ivelchester, whose mother was hanged for cutting of purses, the money to be paid at this Taunton Sessions for one year past; and is to have hereafter 4*li.* a year to be paid quarterly by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers until further order be taken.

T. Philips.

Edw. Hext.

Nich. Halswell.

Edward Rogers.

Tho. Warre.

ORDERS MADE AT BRIDGWATER SESSIONS, [SEPTEMBER]
11 JAMES [1613].

[*The list of Justices present is defective.*]

1. Ordered as Henry Waters was last settled by the space of two years at Aller, that he shall be there placed and provided for. [S.R., xvi, 12.]

2. Ordered that William Scarell shall make his abode at Aller.

3. Ordered that Sir Edward Hext, knt. shall take surety of Cuthbert Searle of Langport never to tipple again, and that his alehouse be suppressed.

4. Ordered that if the inhabitants of all such parishes as are ordered to contribute to the repair of Stanmores Bridge do bring a certificate that they have paid their money at which they were taxed by the Commissioners of Sewers, that then the presentments remaining on record shall be discharged and also all the amercements issued.

5. Whereas Edith Bowen widow of Wrington standeth indicted not only of barrettry and battery, but is also complained of for divers other misdemeanours : Ordered that if she offend again, Mr. Maye and Mr. Rattle provide for her to be whipped at a cart tail, or otherwise punished, as they shall think fit. [S.R., xvi, 11.]

6. Ordered that Thomas Burd, being a prisoner in the gaol for want of sureties of the good behaviour, be not delivered until he find sureties of subsidy men of three pounds in land or five pounds in goods to appear at the next Sessions, and to wear irons until he be so bailed, for that he did misdeemean himself in the face of the Court. [S.R., xvi, 1, 3, 72.]

7. Ordered that a warrant of the good behaviour be made against Arthur Towills because that when all matters of controversy between him and William Avery had been referred to Sir John Mallett and Sir Nicholas Halswell, knts. and Edward Rogers, esq. and the said Avery punished, he procured an attachment out of the Crown office of the good behaviour against the said Avery for the same matters.

8. Ordered that the settling of John Doben be referred to Sir John Mallett, knt., and Edw. Rogers, esq.

9. Whereas the worshipfulls of the whole Bench understand that Robert son of William Coles never dwelt in the parish of Stokeland [Bristol], but was born at Kilton, and as one of the poor was apprenticed with John Crosse of that place ; yet now

of late has been by Sir John Wyndham, knt., and John Trexilian esq., sent to Stokeland : Ordered that the said Robert Coles be forthwith conveyed to Kilton there to be set on work, and thereof fail you not at your peril. Given under my hand at the said Sessions. [No signature.]

10. On the information of the most part of the sufficientest inhabitants of the borough of Mynehead, that on the 21st of May last the house of Margeret Lcwes, widow, was burnt down with goods to the value of fifty pounds, to her great discomfort and utter undoing : ordered that she shall be paid five pounds by the Treasurer of the hospitals of the west division. [S.R., xvi, 13.]

11. Ordered that the highway leading from Holway lane to Robert Sherford's house be repaired at the charge of the parishioners of Taunton Magdalen and St. James equally until Taunton Sessions next, and then to be judicially heard and ordered accordingly.

12. Ordered that the cause of bastardy between John Shepherd of Lockeinge and Elizabeth Chedsey be referred to John Maye and Nathanael Still, esquires.

13. On a certificate of divers of the inhabitants of Mynehead that on the 21st of May last the house of George Myles was burnt down to his utter undoing : Ordered that he shall have ten pounds, five to be paid at the Wells sessions and five at the Ivelchester sessions.

Jo. Mallett, Ed. Hext, Nich. Halswell, Joh. Bridges, Ed. Rogers, Tho. Warre, Jo. Trevilyan. [S.R., xvi, 9.]

14. On the sufficient testimony of divers inhabitants of Holford that John Harsell tippler doth keep in his house many misdemeanors and ill orders, to the great disturbance and grief of his neighbours : Ordered that the said John Harsell be suppressed from selling of ale, and that the Constable or constables of Whitby Hundred shall take away his licence. [S.R., xvi, 9a.]

15. Ordered that if any two persons settled in any parish by the space of one year or upwards, being not impotent, shall intermarry, that the churchwardens or overseers of the poor shall not be anyway bound to provide them a house until they shall become impotent and not able to relieve themselves. But if they being married and able to provide them a house that the churchwardens nor any other shall lay any tax upon any that shall so let them a house, or sell them a plot to build upon. [S.R., xvi, 10.]

16. Upon motion of Mr. Luttrell against Hugh Dyer *als* Lawrance for abusing and "mayming" of his apprentice William Stodden, and for selling corrupt meat: Referred to Sir John Mallett and Sir Nicholas Halswell knts. for the discharging of the said apprentice, and a precept be awarded for Hill.

17. Order made at Yard by Sir John Wyndham knt. and John Trevelian esq. on the 29th day of July, 1613.

John Nation of Catworsh, the father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens of Huish Champflower for the support of the child.

Johan Cordinge of Huish, the mother, shall keep and maintain the child, or otherwise be committed to the House of Correction at Taunton for a year. [S.R., xvi, 7.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS on the 11th, 12th, and 13th days January, 11 James [1613-4], before Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir Thomas Phelippes, Sir Edward Hext, Knts., Dr. Francis James, D.D., one of the Masters of the Court of Chancery, Thomas Warre, Robert Hopton, Richard Warre, Thomas Hughes, John Farwell, Christopher Preston, Francis Baber, James Bisse, William Swanton, John Symes, Thomas Southworth, and Joseph Rattle, esquires.

1. Ordered that Reginald Lowde shall have a yearly pension of five marks from the Treasurer of the maymed soldiers, to be paid quarterly.

2. Ordered that twenty pounds shall be paid yearly equally by the Treasurers of both divisions towards the maintenance of the House of Correction at Ivelchester.

3. The assuring of the amercements of the County Court Books is referred to () Warre, John Symes, and Robert Cuffe, esquires, or any two of them.

4. Ordered that if any licence be granted to Edward Smith for to carry or buy butter, that it shall be suppressed.

5. Ordered that Mr. Richard Rowsell shall enter his traverse at this Sessions to prosecute the same with effect at the next, and to attend Mr. Baron Snigge in the meantime.

6. Ordered that Margery Stocke of Breane shall be discharged of the presentment made against her by the Constables of Bempstone Hundred at the Assizes at Chard the 24th July, 1612, for that she did brew but two barrels of beer for such workmen as did work at the sea walls for Mr. Thomas Band.

7. On complaint by Agnes Powe that although she was born and hath ever lived at Worle, yet the parishioners will not suffer her there to abide: Ordered that she shall be settled and provided for, and set to work according to the Statute.

8. On the petition of Thomas Wheddon that he hath lost the use of his right arm and his left hand in the service of the King of Denmark: Ordered that the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers shall pay him ten shillings towards his relief and maintenance to bring him to London.

9. Ordered that all Alehouses upon Mendip shall be suppressed.

10. Whereas Thomas Witchwell of Donkerton hath been presented at the Assizes for building a cottage contrary to the Statute: Ordered that he shall attend Mr. Hopton and Mr. Bisse for his placing between Camerton and Donkerton.

11. Whereas the two parishes of Old Cleeve and St. Decuman's were before this time presented for the decay of Kensford Bridge within the Hundred of Williton and Freemaners, and that it hath been shown at this Sessions that the bridge ought to be repaired only by Mr. Edmund Windham esq. by reason of his tenure of some land adjoining. And further it doth appear that the said bridge was repaired by the said Mr. Windham before Michaelmas last according to an order made at the Assizes by the Lord Chief Baron at Chard the 14th of July last past: It is now ordered that the said presentment shall be discharged, and all issues thereupon arisen shall not be extracted.

12. On a complaint by the churchwardens of Winford that Agnes Burdges [or Burges], widow, who hath relief of the said parish out of the poor man's box, hath received in her house John Gabriell and her daughter Joane Burges, said to be man and wife, but rather accounted vagrant persons, and the said Joan hath had one bastard very chargeable to the parish, and there is another said to be the child of the said Gabriell: Referred to Sir Hugh Smyth and Sir Edward Gorges knts., John Maye and Joseph Rattle esquires, or any two of them, to determine an order hereof. [S.R., xix, 5.]

13. On complaint that John Bendell of Westbury, being the reputed father of the child of Joane Boultinge, doth refuse to pay any allowance towards the relief of the child, whereby John Boultinge, the father of Joane, standeth charged with the keeping thereof: Referred to Francis James, doctor of the lawes, and Thomas Southworth esquires to order and determine therein.

14. Whereas a controversy touching the execution of the office of tithingman in Felton was referred to Sir Hugh Smyth and Sir Edward Gorges knts., John Maye and Joseph Rattle esquires, or any two of them, to determine, and whereas Sir Hugh Smyth was not acquainted with the examination of the said cause on which an order was made: Ordered that the examination shall be referred to the said Sir Hugh Smyth and Sir

Edward Gorges knts., and John Maye esq. or any two of them, whereof Sir Hugh Smyth to be one, to make an order before Easter next. And that Wallis the new tithyngman shall continue until further order be taken. [S.R., xvi, 29, 30, 55.]

15. The law ordaining that stock of money should be levied in this County as well for the relief of hospitals and spital houses as for the relief of such as take great losse by fire or otherwise, and for such other charitable uses as to our discretion shall seem meetest, whereupon some of us, the Justices of the said County, finding that there was good store of money remaining in the hands of the Treasurer for the hospitals, thought good to dispose thereof otherwise than by express words of the Statute was ordained ; and now being occasioned by reason of the great misery and want of relief of the prisoners within our gaol, and in both our houses of correction, and for that the poor towns of Ilminster and Dunster have of late taken very great loss by fire, we are enforced to look more strictly to the distribution of those monies according to the intent and meaning of the law than in former time we have done : [We] have therefore at this our assembly at our Sessions at Wells, ordered that the Treasurer[s] of our Hospitals shall not from henceforth pay any monies out of their stock according to former order, until such time as such monies as have been ordered to be paid to the relief of our hospital and spital houses, and such monies as are ordered to be paid for the relief of the prisoners in the gaol and the houses of correction, and also such other monies as shall be at this Sessions are hereafter ordered to be given to the relief of Ilminster, Dunster, or such like charitable uses, which was the true intent and meaning of the makers of that law, be satisfied. This we do order to be performed notwithstanding any order heretofore made to the contrary until such time as upon a farther conference upon due consideration had we shall alter the same. [S.R., xix, 8.]

16. Whereas heretofore the Treasurers for the maimed soldiers made information that their stock was not able for all the duties allowed by the Justices, it was then ordered that the Treasurers of the hospitals for the eastern division

should pay twenty pounds to the said stock: and for that at this time there are greater sums to pay out of the stock of the hospitals of the western division than the stock will yield: it is ordered that the treasurer of the maimed soldiers shall now pay to John Luffe, constable of the town of Ilminster, twenty pounds towards their losses by fire in "lewe" of the said twenty pounds allowed to them out of the stock of the hospitals of the west division.

And it is farther ordered that the Treasurer of the hospitals of the wester division shall pay to the said John Luffe ten pounds more as soon as it shall come into their hands. [S.R., xix, 11.]

17. Whereas at the last Bridgwater Sessions, the case of the base born child of Edith Godwin, late of Chard, was referred to Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Phelippes, Knts., they now certify that after great charges incurred by the town of Chard, the mother having deserted her child and fled away, it doth plainly appear that Robert Barkeley, "sheere grinder," of Chard is the reputed father, and that they have ordered him to pay ten pounds in part of the charge that the said town hath been at for their travelling, nourishing, and bringing up of the said child, and then to be discharged of the said child for ever. Dated 10 Nov. 1613. [S.R., xix, 9.]

18. Order made by Sir Thomas Phelippes and Sir Edward Hext, knts., the 23th of June, 1613.

Henry Dawe of Langport, cutler, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly for the support of the child, and enter into bond with two sufficient securities for the performance of the order.

Elizabeth Stuckey of Mochelney, the mother of the child Dorothy, shall be on Saturday next, about twelve of the clock, whipped at Langport up and down the market until her back be bloody. [S.R., xix, 10.]

19. On complaint of the overseers of Wedmore that Isabel Day hath had five base children, and for some of them hath never reputed any father, and doth live very idly, and is very troublesome to her neighbours on any small occasion; and that

Margaret Bath hath two base children and hath reputed no father for the last born : Ordered that the two women be forthwith committed to the Bridewell at Ivelchester to remain there until farther order ; and that the said seven children shall be provided for by the parishioners of Wedmore. [S.R., xix, 4.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT IVELCHESTER on the 3rd, 4th and 5th days of May, 12 James [1614], before Sir Edward Hext, knt., Thomas Warr, Robert Hopton, Alexander Ewens, John Symes, James Byssse, William Swanton, Christopher Preston, and Joseph Rattle, esquires.

1. Ordered that the inhabitants of Minehead shall maintain the wife and seven children of Raph Tucker, a very poor man, who has lain in the gaol at Ivelchester this six weeks, whereby his family are like to perish of famine. [S.R., xvi, 21a, 22, xix, 13.]

2. On a petition from the inhabitants of Charlton Mackarell that the highways within the manor of Tucks Cary and Lights Cary are in great decay and very founderaus : Ordered that those who have ground within the said manor, not ploughlands, nor those inhabiting, shall pay yearly two pence for every acre to the overseers of the highways ; which if they refuse, they shall be bound over to the next Sessions to answer their contempt. [S.R., xix, 12, 17, 26.]

3. Ordered that Edward Hillinge of Barrowe in the parish of Charlton Musgrove shall build a house there, having already obtained licence from Francis Dyer, esq., lord of the manor of Barrowe.

Robert Hopton, Jo. Symes, Jo. Rattle, James Bisse, Will. Swanton, Christ. Preston. [S.R., xix, 21, 32.]

4. On a petition from Phillip Perry, of Evercreech, carpenter, subscribed under the hands of the most sufficient men of the said parish : Ordered that the house he hath already built on a piece

of the waste of the said manor by permission of the officers of Lord Graye, lord of the manor, shall continue and remain. [S.R., xix, 34.]

5. On the information of the constables of Bawdripp that the causeway between the east gate of Bridgwater and Crane bridge is now fallen in great decay to the great hurt and annoyance of the country, and like to be in a more great decay unless it be forthwith amended: Ordered that all the inhabitants of Bawdripp, Chedzey, Puriton, Wolavington, Cosington, Murlinch, Chealton [Chilton Polden], Edington, Cattcott, Stowell, Shapwick, Ashcott, and Soutten [Mallett], who keep ploughs shall bring before Whitsontide next, two wain loads of good stones and lay them where the weywardens of the said way shall appoint. And those who are joined with a partner for the keeping of a whole plough shall likewise join together and bring two loads. Further the parish of Bridgwater shall break the stones and lay them in such manner and sort as in former times hath been done.

Penalty for failure to obey, three shillings and four pence. Lastly, if any plough shall hereafter go loaden upon the said causeway shall pay six shillings and eight pence, of which half shall be given to the maintenance of the road, and half to the poor of Bridgwater. [S.R., xix, 40.]

6. On the petition of the inhabitants of Hornebloten: Ordered that Hercules Speere with his wife and children be sent back to West Bradley, then to be settled and provided for.

7. The examination of the controversy touching Mary, daughter of Giles Yewens of Burnham, lately bound apprentice to Anthony Player, who hath now sent her back with the forty shillings received with her, is referred to Mr. May and Mr. Rattle. [S.R., xix, 36.]

8. Whereas Isabell Day of Wedmore lately committed to the Bridewell at Ivelchester [Wells Sess. 1613-4, No. 19] till she should reform, and yet doth still continue in her former course of ill life: and it is now ordered that she do stay there for one

whole year, and before her discharge be bound with sufficient sureties to the good behaviour. And whereas two of her children have money at use and yet are chargeable to the said parish of Wedmore, the examination thereof is referred to John May and Joseph Rattle, esquires. [S.R., xix, 33.]

9. Whereas John Evans of Claverton hath been presented by the jury at the leet or law day held for the liberty of Hampton and Claverton, as at sundry times before, to be one of the constables for the said liberty, which he refuseth to perform : Ordered that he should make his personal appearance before Mr. Robert Hopton and Mr. James Bisse and take the oath for the performance of the said office ; or on his refusal to be bound over to the next Sessions that there may be such course taken with him as unto the Justices shall appertain. [S.R., xix, 31.]

10. On the petition of Phillip Every, a very poor man, we have granted him to build a house on the waste of Evercreech, he having obtained licence from the Right Honourable the Lord Gray, lord of the manor.

Robert Hopton, Alex. Ewens, Jo. Symes, Will. Swanton,
Ja. Bysse, Christ. Preston.

11. Ordered that the old orders shall stand in force concerning the tythingman of Felton [Wells Sess. 1613-4, No. 14] until the Judges be made acquainted with it and given their censure therein. [S.R., xix, 35.]

12. Ordered that the controversy between the parishioners of Compton Dando and William Clapton concerning the Cunniger [rabbit warren] be referred to Sir Tho. Bridges, Mr. May, and Mr. Rattle. [S.R., xix, 37.]

13. Ordered that Lyonell Still shall continue his cottage built upon the waste of Chisselborrowe, his petition showing that he hath obtained leave of the lady of the manor. [S.R., xix, 38.]

14. Ordered that Clement Fryday shall build him a cottage on the waste of Milborn Port, a certificate showing that he hath obtained licence of the Honourable the Earl of Hertford. [S.R., xix, 39.]

15. As it appeareth to the Court that Hugh Dyer of Stogursey butcher hath lately beaten misused and evil intreated his apprentice William Stodden in such violent manner that he is in danger forever to be maimed in one of his arms, and is likely to sustain more mischief if he remain ; the said apprentice is hereby discharged. [Bridgewater Sess. 1613, No. 16, S.R., xix, 43.]

16. Order made by Sir Thomas Pheylppes knt., and Alexander Ewens esq., the 24th Oct., 11 James [1613].

Henry Moon of West Coker, the supposed father shall pay ninepence weekly to the overseers for the support of the child, and shall give security to observe this order.

Elizabeth Lewes of West Coker, the mother shall bring up her man child until it shall be taken from her by the said father and placed elsewhere. [S.R., xix, 41.]

17. Order made by Thomas Hughes and Thomas Southworth esquires, the 12th April, 12 James [1614].

Robert Cullinge of West Pennard tailor, the reputed father, having already paid to John Fry the elder, William Jeines, John Greimsteed, William Walter, Thomas Hoiskins and Andrew Hurd, churchwardens and overseers of the said parish three pounds and ten shillings to provide a stock for the child and to discharge the parish, and do ratify and confirm the same.

Johan Brodrripp, the mother is to keep the child without receiving any allowance from the parish except in extreme necessity, or in default to pay sixpence weekly ; and shall put in bond with sufficient security for the performance of this order.

The said Johan shall for her part be conveyed to Wells and on the next market day be openly whipped at the cost and charges of the parishioners of West Pennard. And as there is no certain ground or vehement presumption to inflict the like

upon the reputed father, he is left to the judgement of the Ordinary. [S.R., xix, 42.]

18. Order made by Alexander Ewens, John Farwell, and William Swanton esquires, the 23rd April, 12 James [1614].

Henry Creech of Mudford, the reputed father shall pay twelve pence weekly to the churchwardens and collectors of the poor every Saboth day after evening prayer.

Dorothy Wootten the known mother of Henry the base child shall keep the child.

Both parents shall enter into bonds of twenty pounds to perform this order.

The said Dorothy Wootten shall be openly whipped at Evell [Yeovil] on the market day after the next Ivelchester Sessions.

Note.—At this Sessions this order was altered; and it is now ordered that John Collens shall pay half the weekly sum ordered to be paid by Creech. [S.R., xix, 28, 44.]

19. Order made by Dr. Francis James and Thomas Southworth esq., the 15th January, 1613-[4].

John Beadle of Westbury husbandman, being "as yet for ought appeareth unto us" the reputed father shall pay weekly eight pence, for the raising of a stock for the apprenticing of the child.

Johann Boulton, the mother, shall nurse and bring up the child, and both parents are to give sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., xix, 45, 56.]

Copy of certificate that John Beadle [or Bendle] has given security.

Thos. Hardwicke, Richard Churchowse, churchwardens.

Jo. Hardwicke ju., William Clement, Jeffery Govie, overseers.

20. Whereas William Hurd hath been several times sent by warrant from Sir Edward Hext to the overseers of East Chinnock where he was born to be there placed, and yet they have refused to receive him and sent him back to his grandmother at Long Sutton who is not of ability to keep him :

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Ordered that if the overseers still refuse to receive him, Sir Edward Hext shall bind them over to the next Sessions to answer their complaint. [S.R., xix, 27.]

21. Whereas William Crafte and his wife have been heretofore taken as tenants of a house by William Clarke of Eastfield in the parish of Chisselborowe within the tithyng of Chinnock, in which house their two children were born ; whom they have left, and are gone away. And whereas the overseers with the consent of Sir George Speke and Christopher Preston have ordered that the said Clarke should take the eldest child as an apprentice, and he refusing, was bound over to this Sessions. Now on his consenting to perform the order, he is released. [S.R., xix, 47.]

22. Licence to Thomas Phippen of Bawdripp, a very poor man, to inhabit a cottage newly erected by himself with the leave of the lord of the manor, without four acres of land being thereto laid.

23. The petition preferred by Thomas Pearce is to be examined by Sir Thomas Bridges knt., James Bysse and Joseph Rattle, who are to license him as in former time or else to dismiss him, and in the meantime to continue as before.

Edw. Hext, Rich. Warre, Jo. Symes, Henry Walrond, Alex. Ewens, Rob. Hopton, Christopher Preston, Tho. Warre, Will. Swanton, Jos. Rattle.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT TAUNTON the 19th, 20th and 21st days of July, 12 James [1614], before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Thomas Phellipps, knts., Thomas Warr, Edward Rogers, Humfry Windham, John Frauncis, Robert Hopton, John Symes, John Farewell, James Bysse, Christopher Preston, Robert Cuffe, and Joseph Rattle, esquires.

1. Ordered that Sir George Speke, Sir Thomas Phelipps shall account, and Sir George Farwell for his father, for the

time that they were treasurers of the hospitals before Sir Nicholas Halswell and Mr. Rogers, before the next Sessions, upon pain of fines for non-performance.

2. Whereas Isabell Day hath nominated fathers for her three base children [Wells Sess. 1613-4, No. 19], and Christopher Latcham one of the suspected fathers, hath taken divers goods of the said Isabell and will not allow anything for the support of the children: Ordered that examination of the whole be referred to Dr. James and two of the next Justices adjoining. [S.R., xix, 68-71.]

3. Whereas on the appeal of John Carse from an order of Sir John Windham, Roger Standly was suspected to be the father of the child of Alice Burd, and he hath departed away not answering the matter: The determining thereof is deferred to the next Sessions. [S.R., xix, 67.]

4. Ordered that Christopher Smalland shall have out of the hospital money of the west division forty shillings, as soon as the treasurer shall have so much in his hands. [S.R., xix, 70.]

5. On an appeal from the inhabitants of Kingsbury the weekly contribution of Thomas Pittard for the support of the two children of Elizabeth Harcombe is raised from eight to twelve pence. [S.R., xix, 51, 63, 83.]

6. Christopher Nacion, having brought a certificate that he hath the consent of the whole parish of Corfe, shall erect a cottage on the waste there so that he obtained the consent of the lord of the soil. [S.R., xix, 64, 65.]

7. On an appeal at this Sessions the cause between William Randall and Susan Abbott is referred to the next Sessions. [S.R., xix, 61.]

8. On a petition of Nicholas Dibbance and John Stirridge of Dichett that whereas they have lived there honestly for six or seven years in the houses of James Morse, yet he is now amerced by the parishioners in ten pounds for the avoiding of

the said petitioners: Ordered in regard they have so long continued there that by law they ought not to be removed, that James Morse be discharged of the said amercement, and the said petitioners to continue in the houses. [*S.R.*, xix, 60, 62.]

9. Raignold Davidge the son of Robert Davidge of Gregorystoke, who was lately bound apprentice to William and Eliza Eason of Taunton, having complained to Richard Warr and John Symes, esquires, that he had not sufficient meat and drink and other necessaries fitting for an apprentice. Ordered that after examination had he be discharged from his said master and dame, and the indenture of apprenticeship be void. [*S.R.*, xix, 66.]

10. A repetition of the order No. 2 of this Sessions, with the name of John Tutton added as in controversy with Christopher Latcham.

[Three bastardy orders, *S.R.*, xix, 48, 50, 52, should have been entered here.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT BRIDGWATER the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of September, 12 James [1614], before Sir John Mallett, Sir Maurice Berkeley, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, knts., Thomas Warr, Edward Rogers, Edward Popham, John Trevillian, Barnabe Lewis, Robert Cuffe, Thomas Brereton, Thomas Southworth, and Joseph Rattle, esquires.

ORDERS.

1. John Gill to be discharged from his apprenticeship with William Spritte of Stogursey and be bound apprentice to John Rowe of Stawley. Sir John Mallett, knt., and Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., shall send for the sayd William Spritte and shall suppress him from his tipplinge without license.

2. William Rendall having made proof that he is not the father of the base-born child of Susan Abbott of Closworth, but that Danyell Coombstocke is, it is referred to Sir George Speake, knt., and John Powlett, esq., to examine the said cause and to make an order therein. [*S.R.*, xix, 49.]

3. Whereas there is a difference touchinge the repaires of the highwayes at Taunton Magdalen and St. James parishe in a street there called Estridge, whoe ought to repaire the same wayes. It is therefore ordered that the parishioners of St. James shall joyne with the parishioners of Taunton Magdalen and that at Taunton Sessions next when it is determined whoe ought to repaire the same that that parishe which ought to repaire the said highwayes shall.

4. Whereas there is a difference touching a base child born at Burnett in this county but begotten at Sodbury in Gloucestershire, which was brought to Marston Biggott and layde in a barne there as it is supposed, it is ordered that Sir Thomas Bridgs, knt., Sir John Horner, knt., and Robert Hopton, Esq., or any two of them to inquire into the matter and if it be the same childe, to order and appointe where it shall be placed and provided for. [*S.R.*, xix, 98.]

5. Mr. Bragge Vicar of Curland and his wife, in regard he hath been vicar there above five yeares, shall have his abode and continuance and be settled there.

6. Sir John Wyndham, knt., and John Trevellyan, Esqr. are to examine into the cause of bastardy for John Saffin and to certify the same at the next Sessions.

7. Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., Sir Francis Heale, knt., and Edward Rogers, Esq., to inquire whoe is the reputed father of the base-born child of Elinor Lame Johand.

8. The parishioners of Camerton are to repaire to Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., and Edward Popham, Esq. to be ordered by them what they shall yeald weekeley towards the releife of John Launsdon during the time that he shall remaine in Bridewell.

9. John Cade shall give 50s^z. a piece to Johane Lechland for two children of which he is the reputed father, and shall apparell them when they are apprenticed; and as for the arrerages which is behind towards the releafe of the said children accordinge to a former order, he shall referr himselfe to the orderinge and determining of Humphrey Wyndham, Esq. and John Symes, Esq., which if he do perform he shall be discharged and freed from the said children for ever hereafter.

10. As by the petition of the inhabitants of Mylverton it appeareth that Richard Ceeke of M. is a very poore man and hathe no house to receave himself and family, it is ordered that he shall have a convenient place to erect a house by the consent of the lord of the manor, and that the house so built shall remaine and continue. [S.R., xix, 85, 87.]

11. Whereas James Farre who served in the warres in the time of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth and received divers hurts in his body hath presented a petition on to the King asking for releife, which petition hath been referred to Henry Walrond, Esq., and John Pawlett, Esq., to take such order for him as should be agreable to the statute; and whereas Sir Walter Bollor, knt. his late captain and Sir William Wade, knt., Muster Master generall have certified that James Farre was soe hurt, it is hereby ordered that he shall receive 40s^z. yearely by quarterly payments at each Sessions, the first payment to be made now.

Maur. Barkeley, Nich. Halswell, Edw. Hext, Thos. Bridges,
Francis Hele, Ed. Rogers, Tho. Warre. [S.R., xix, 88,
96.]

12. Order made by John Maye, Esq., and Joseph Rattle, Esq., after an inquiry held at Wedmore, 2nd day of September, 1614, touching Johanna a base-born child of Isabell Daye, according to an order made at the Sessions held at Taunton:

Inprimis: As before making the order at Taunton so now again we have examined diverse witnesses by whose testimony and upon examination of the cause and circumstances thereof it appeareth to us that Christopher Latcham is the father of the child, and that John Tutton

of Wedmore hath been wrongfully charged in this matter ; we therefore order that Christopher Latcham shall pay to the churchwardens and overseers twelve pence every Sunday after Morning Prayer, and shall pay arrearage from the birth of the said child, and that this payment shall continue until she can be bound apprentice.

Item, that the Isabell Day, after her release from the house of Bridewell, where she now remaineth for her punishment, for this bastard and four other bastards which she formerly hath, shall keep the child if the authorities think her able to do so in regard of her health without receiving or having any allowance out of the said contribution of the reputed father ; and if she refuse to keep the child, then to pay twelve pence a week to the authorities.

Item, that both the said parties shall put in sufficient sureties either by bond or otherwise to the best liking of the churchwardens and overseers for the performance of this our order.

John Maye, Jos. Rattle. [S.R., xix, 100.]

13. Whereas the said Christopher Latcham hath appealed unto this Court for some imperfections in the same order to be received ; and it is now ordered that it stand until the next General Sessions when the said C. Latcham and John Tutton shall produce their witnesses and according to the best proofs on that behalf order shall be taken. [S.R., xix, 92.]

14. Forasmuch as at the Court Leet or Law holden for the manor of Taunton Deane the 1st Sept. 1614, the jury presented that the great stoninge bridge at Shutterne called Fleet Bridge was in decay and hath great need to be speedily repayred, that it lay within the parish of St. Mary Magdalen in Taunton, but they had no evidence by whome it ought to be repayred. It is ordered that the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene shall repaire it. [S.R., xix, 91.]

SOMERSET.—GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th days of January, 12 James [1614-5]. Before Sir James Ley, Sir John Mallett, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir Edward Hext, and Sir Francis Heale, Knights: John Pawlett, Robert Hopton, Edward Rogers, Edward Popham, Thomas Hughes, Christopher Preston, Francis Baber, James Bysse, Barnabas Lewis, Thomas Warre, Thomas Brereton, Thomas Southworth, and Joseph Rattle, Esquires.

ORDERS.

1. Whereas John Wright of Langford Budville hath appealed unto us from the strictness of an order made by John Frauncis and Humphrey Wyndham Esquires, requiring him to pay xiiij pence weekly for the maintenance of the base born child of Martha Pirry, which was made upon the information of the said Martha Pirry and her friends only, the said J. W. not being present, nor the said Justices knowing his state but being informed that he was of farre greater ability than indeed he appeared unto us to be, we now reduce it to viij pence per week until the next General Sessions, where it shall be continued if not otherwise altered. [S.R., xx, 8.]

2. Wyne to pay backe 5 pounds wrongfully retained by him of Parsons upon an arrest, and the parties to give mutual releases.

3. Sir John Mallett, knt. Thomas Warre and Thomas Brereton, Esquires, or any two of them shall bind over—Clarke and—Maye to appear at the next General Sessions with good sureties in a good sum of money, and in the mean time to keep the peace one to the other.

4. Whereas Lewis Lyninge of Marke is presented to keep a common tippling house without license, which he allegeth to be an ancient inn: John Maye and Joseph Rattle, Esquires,

are to send for the ancient men of Marck and examine into the truth of the allegation ; and to certifie at the next Sessions when the case is to be tried.

5. Whereas the Constables and Jurors of the Hundred of Bempstone have presented that there are too many tipplers in Wedmore and Marke : John Maye, Nathaniel Still, and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, three of the Justices within that limit shall examine into the truth thereof, and suppress such as they find to be superfluous from keeping of tippling houses.

6. Whereas Thomas Ingham of Compton Dando gent. was ordered by Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq. to enter into a bond with the churchwardens and overseers of the same parish with sureties to pay viij*d.* weekly towards the maintenance of the base-born child of Margaret Addlames until it should be bound apprentice, and whereas he hath not performed the order but is conveyed away from hence by his father's means : It is therefore ordered that William Ingham his father shall be bound to the good behaviour unless he will enter into bond that his son shall perform the said order. [S.R., xx, 3.]

7. Upon full and deliberate hearing of the cause of bastardy now in difference between Christopher Latcham and John Tutton, and upon due examination of all the witnesses produced on both sides : It is conceived by the Justices present that C. Latcham is the reputed father of the last base-born child of Isabell Day : It is therefore ordered that the first order made by Jos. Rattle and John Maye shall stand ; that the corporal punishment of the said C. Latcham shall be respited until further order ; that Isabell Day shall forthwith be whipped in Wells ; and that C. Latcham before Wednesday next shall give bond for the due performance of the order before Jos. Rattle, Esq., or in default shall be bound over to the next General Sessions.

8. Ordered that the order made at the last Sessions (B'water No. 2) between Abbott and Rendall shall remain in force until the next General Sessions when the parties shall attend.

9. The overseers of Palton having petitioned this Court concerning William Heale a poor "decipet" man borne in Palton, but removed to Camerton for the space of three and a half years, and now returned to P. for the space of half a year on the ground that P. is over burthened with poor people, Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber Esq. shall order and appoint when W. Heale shall be placed and provided for. [S.R., xx, 22.]

10. Whereas Nicholas Webbe hath petitioned that whereas he hath been married and dwelt at Woolverton four years and upwards in the house of Agnis Willsheere his mother-in-law, now Mr. Horton the lord of the Manor will not permitt Webbe, his wife and his child to inhabit there any longer : Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, shall acquaint Mr. Horton therewith, and shall determine and appoint the abode of N. Webbe as they shall think fit. [S.R., xx, 24.]

11. Whereas the parishioners of Sparkford have petitioned that John Lachmore of S. is a very poor man with a wife and many small children and hath no house to entertain himself and his family : It is ordered that J. Lachmore with the consent of the lord of the manor shall have a convenient place to erect and build a house for habitation. [S.R., xx, 28.]

12. Whereas the overseers and churchwardens of Chilcompton have petitioned that Mathias Griffen, who hath no certain place of abode or dwellinge to their knowledge but is a wanderer from place to place, hath married a lewd woman the daughter of a very poor man named Robins dwelling in a house built upon the lord's waste for the poor there, wherein there are two or three "coopells" besides the said Griffin ; and that the said Griffin not longer after his marriage ran away leaving his wife whose child was born within three months of the marriage ; but cometh to her again allways by night, refusing to provide for her elsewhere : Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq. are to order and appoint where Griffin and his wife shall be settled and provided for. [S.R., xx, 26.]

13. Whereas Richard Pearce hath petitioned on behalf of the parishioners of Pilton that after Nathaniel French of Shepton Mallet, fellmaker had received Walter Brooke as an apprentice; he allowed him to be vagrant from Whitsunday last until the eighth day of January when he was brought from tithing to tithing unto Pilton the place of his birth, notwithstanding that N. French had with the apprentice the value of *xls^s/4*: Ordered that Mr. Doctor James and Thomas Hughes, Esq. shall send for N. F., W. B., and R. P. and upon examination to set down and make an order herein. [S.R., xx, 23.]

14. Whereas the Earl of Hertford, lord of the manor of Chellington (Chillington) hath granted a voyd place for erecting a house for the poor of the said parish which has been built by the overseers and some of the parish; and the overseers to pay for the cost have levied a rate according to the rate for the relief of the poor there allowed by Sir Thomas Phelippes, Knt., and Christopher Preston, Esq.; yet notwithstanding Wm. Stuckey, Thomas Marshall, and Henry Trott do refuse to pay the same as appeareth by the petition of the overseers: It is ordered that those persons or any other do refuse to pay that the two next justices within that limit shall call before them such as refuse and bind them over unto the next General Sessions. [S.R., xx 25.]

15. As it appeareth unto the Justices that Robert Carsley of Taunton dyer hath incited John Marlem his apprentice to unlawful actions and to committ "theevery": It is ordered by the Bench that the apprentice be forthwith discharged, and that all contracts and agreements made shall be frustrate and of none effect.

16. Whereas the overseers of Lamiatt complain that Edmund Hixe of West Pennard hath brought in and settled one James Mann as his under-tenant on a promise to hold the parish harmless from any charge which might come from his presence and to remove him if required which the said Hicks (*sic*) now refuseth to perform: the examination thereof is referred to Sir Maurice Barkley, Knt., Robert Hopton and James Bisse,

Esquires, or to any two of them to order and determine the said difference or controversy.

17. Order that Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, or either of them shall as soone as conveniently may be "suere" Phillipp Tibbett of Inglescombe to execute the office of tithyng-man for one whole year then following.

18. Referred to Sir John Mallett, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Knts. Thomas Warre, John Symes, Thomas Brereton, Esquires, or any two of them to view the house of Correction at Taunton, and to take such moneys for the present reparations thereof as shall be thought fitt until the next General Sessions.

19. Powell Day having petitioned that whereas about seven years ago order was taken at the Wells Sessions to provide him a house at Burnett where he was borne, which order is not now to be found, and the petitioner by reason of much sickness on himself and his wife is grown in great poverty and distress, and by that means has no certain place of abode at St. George's where he now dwelleth, is like to lie in the open street with his wife and child : the examination thereof is referred to Sir Thomas Bridges Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq. to take some lawful course for his relief, and farther to take especial care that the petitioner and his family be not constrained to lie in the streets, especially for that his wife is very sick and weak. [S.R., xx, 29.]

20. Whereas a certificate has been presented by the Mayor, Aldermen, Constables and Overseers of the Borough of Axbridge that there are three ancient Inns within the said Borough, and that the innkeepers are greatly impoverished by reason that Edward Gallwey, John Colston, Robert Larder, and Peter Butcher, who inhabit in the next street adjoining to the Burrough, but outside the liberties have built stables there and on every market day and at other fetch the horses of travellers forth of the Burrough and place them in their stables and take money for their standing and meat ; and that the said Edward Gallwey and John Robinson, John Robinson and William Norcott do keep disorderly tippling-houses in west street to the

great prejudice of the ancient inns: Examination of this cause is referred to John Maye and Joseph Rattle Esquires, who shall call before them the said parties and order and determine the same; and if any shall refuse to be ordered, they shall be bound over to the next General Sessions. [S.R., xx, 18.]

21. Whereas Thomas Seaward of East Wells hath petitioned that about ten days last past one Elizabeth Burges was lodged in his house by his wife during his absence, but was put forth on his return, then she left her child with a woman there and departed and was never since heard of by reason whereof Seaward is compelled to keep the child: Order that the base child be forthwith sent to Mark, the place where it was born, to be received and provided for until they can place it at [] in Gloucestershire where it was begotten. [S.R., xx, 13.]

22. Upon the information of some of the inhabitants of Midsomer Norton that divers cottages are erected and built up within the parish in which are placed diverse and many tenants and under-tenants people very poore and of lewd disposition which do much offend and annoy the inhabitants of the same parish, and very like to be a great charge: Ordered that Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., Francis Baber and Barnaby Lewis, Esquires, or any two of them, shall call before them the parties offending, and if thought fit, to bind them over to the next General Sessions to answer the premisses. [S.R., xx, 7.]

23. Whereas William Lane has petitioned that he was born and hath always dwelt in Rodney Stoke, but being a man of small ability was never able to buy him a house of his own, but has always dwelt in hired houses which now he can no longer obtain for his money, as all the houses in the manor are sold; whereupon he is inforced to buy a small plot of ground to build upon, which he hath procured of one of the lords of the manor; but in respect he is not able to buy four acres of land to lay thereunto according to the statute, the inhabitants will not suffer him to build, neither let him a house for his money: Referred to Francis James, Doctor of the law, Thomas Hughes, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, to order and appoint whether he shall erect the house on the plot of ground or no. [S.R., xx, 9.]

24. Complaint having been made by John Stibbes against John Wansbury that whereas J. W. bargained with him for certain goods and chattells to the sum of xxviiiij pounds and rented a tenement of his at x pounds by the year, for which he oweth two years' rent, and moreover promised to pay certain monies for the said J. S. where he did owe the same which he hath not performed, but only paid xvij*li*. out of xliv*li*.; yet notwithstanding he giveth out speeches that the said J. S. indebted to the said J. W.: It is referred to Robert Hopton Esq., to examine the matters above specified, and to order and determine the same. [S.R., xx, 11.]

25. Complaint having been made by Roger Clarcke that whereas he pawned two heifers to John Wansbury of Cloford for his security for the payment of iiij*li*., which was to be paid at Michaelmas last, which sum was tendered at the day and time according to the covenant; yet J. Wansbury would not receive the money but hath driven away and detains the two heifers, being worth vj*li*., viijs*sh*., iiij*d*.: Ordered that the said R. Clarcke shall pay the sum of iv*li*., xs*sh*., and that J. Wansbury shall redeliver the two heifers. [S.R., xx, 12.]

26. Whereas John Reeves hath complained that John Wansbury detains from him two bonds, the principal amounting to xx*li*., and upwards, which he hath paid in ground and cattle at a day long since past, as he can prove by one Roger Clarcke, under a pretence of a replevyn out of the Hundred Court took and drove away from the grounds of the said Reeves, one mare of the price of iij*li*., and two kyne of the price of viij*li*., and thence locked them up in his barn, and afterwards drove the kyne to Stratton when he put them in the backside of one Ambrose Pointinge never showing any replevyn, yet detained them twelve days, riding the mare to divers markets during that time; and further under the pretence of vij*li*., debt which will be due unto him from the said Robert Reeves at the Feast of Pentecost come twelve month doth wrongfully molest one John Coxe who holdeth certain grounds of Reeves (the said Wansbury having no right at all in the said grounds): Referred to Robert Hopton and James Bisse Esquires to examine the causes and

order and determine the same, and if J. Wansbury shall refuse, to bind him over to the next Sessions. [S.R., xx, 10, where the petitioner is called Robert.]

27. Whereas in the third year of His Majesty's reign an order was made at Wells for John Churley of Stawley husbandman to give security for the discharge of that parish (from the maintenance) of the base child of Johane Brewer; and afterwards Nicholas Brewer grandfather of the child gave ten pounds for its use and benefit to John Govyer, Richard Potter, and Andrew Barby : it is now referred to Sir Francis Popham Knt., Thomas Warre and Thomas Brereton, Esquires to call before them the parties named above and to take order to secure the money to the parish. [S.R., xx, 14, 32.]

28. Whereas Nicholas Willoughby gent. has been appointed the King's Woodward by Patent and ought to be in that respect daily attending on his Majesty's service, and has also received letters from his Majesty's Council for the performance of some service touching his office : The Justices therefore discharge him from the office of Constable within the Hundred. of Horethorne for which he was elected, and do appoint Christopher Foster gent. to serve that office for that they account him to be the fittest man for that service. [S.R., xx, 33.]

29. Upon a petition exhibited by Edward Chicke of North Petherton and a certificate made by Sir Nicholas Halswell Knt., and Robert Cuffe Esq., of his great losses by fire : It is ordered that he do receive out of the hospitall money of treasurer for the hospitals of the wester division six pounds thirteen shillings and eight pence. Nich. Halswell. Ed. Hext. Francis Hele. Tho. Warre. James Bysse. Robert Cuffe. [S.R., xx, 34.]

30. Whereas Richard Crewe late of Twiverton was bound over to appear at this Sessions and did not appear, but affidavit was made by John Harvord that he was in the prison at Bath, where he standeth indicted and many misdemeanours proved against him : the keeper of the prison is ordered before the delivery of the said R. Crewe to bring him before a Justice to

find very sufficient security or sureties of subsidy men for his good behaviour and appearance at the next Sessions. [S.R., xx, 30.]

31. Referred to Francis James Doctor of the law, John Maye and Joseph Rattle Esquires to inquire into the differences between Nicholas Tyke and his wife and Christopher Wale [of Clewer in Wedmore,] who shall certify at the next General Sessions how they find the same. [S.R., xx, 4, 36.]

32. On a petition by Robert Pearce that having married and being desirous to live private with his wife he hath by his hard labour bought a house in Langport, but that the parishioners will not suffer him to dwell there. It is ordered that he shall live there if he will make a chimney in the house before he dwell in it that the parishioners may not be endangered by fire. [S.R., xx, 31.]

33. Whereas Elizabeth Tucker daughter of Raffe T. of Minehead was born at Weston in Zoyland, whereupon the inhabitants of Minehead have gone about to make her, being a poor lame child, chargeable to Weston; and the parishioners of Weston assert that she was born at Weston while her mother was travelling through the village to Minehead where they have lived for three years and upwards: It is referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, and Sir Francis Heale Knts., Edward Rogers, Robert Cuffe Esquires to order and appoint when the child shall be settled and provided for. [S.R., xx, 16, 35.]

34. By consent of John Browne keeper of the house of Correction and of John Bayly Gaoler, it is ordered that John Brown who now is keeper of the Ho. of Correction shall keep all such persons as now stand committed to the said House or shall be; and for that purpose he shall have the use of such rooms in the house commonly called the Gaol and House of Correction as follows: Vizt. The two under rooms on the right hand of the Gaol called the Common Gaol, with the little court adjoining; and the sheriff and his keeper of the gaol shall have the residue of the said house for the keeping of the prisoners;

and liberty for the prisoners to repair unto the house of office with an under-keeper in that court ; Saving that the gallery may be used by two servants of the gaoler to lodge in the night time, and the use thereof otherwise to belong to the said John Browne and his servants. It is further ordered that the said John Brown his servants and prisoners shall have ingress and egress at the gate of the said house into the said two lower rooms from six to five of the clock between this and Candlemas, and afterwards from five to six, and not after or before. Also that the sheriff and Gaoler shall have the under rooms in the old gaol for the prisoners. Also that the said John Brown and his son Christopher shall enter into bond of one thousand pounds to the said John Bayly to save him and his heirs harmless from all losses and damages which may happen concerning the said gaol and prisoners by their means. This order to have continuance until "thend of Easter Quarter Sessions and to thend of the year" if the Justices shall not then alter the same. Lastly it is ordered that the Justices that shall be at the next Sessions may view the said Gaol and assign out such rooms for the house of correction and they shall think fit, and shall also agree upon convenient ways both for the house of correction and the gaol, and that then consideration may be had for such costs as the said John Brown hath laid out in newe building part of the said gaol. [S.R., xx, 41.]

35. Upon some special causes now shown unto the Court, it is ordered that John Trapnell be discharged of his apprenticeship to William Morgan of Taunton, the rather that his master refuseth to take him on account of some misdeameanor, yet nevertheless it is ordered that Thos. Warre, John Symes, and Thos. Brereton, Esquires, shall examine the said causes ; and that this order shall remain in the hands of the said Thomas Warre until they have examined the same ; when he is to deliver it if they shall so think it fit. [S.R., xx, 21.]

36. Certificate from Sir John Wyndham and Sir Francis Heale, Knts., and John Trevelian Esq., touching the parentage of the base-born child of Edith Williams of Bicknoller on an order made at the Bridgwater Sessions (No. 6).

After hearing and examining the matters suggested before the Bench and referred to us, we find by several confessions taken before several persons both before and after the delivery of the said Edith Williams, as also upon vehement presumptions gathered out of the confession of John Escott, that he is the father of the said child ; and that John Saffyn and John Rudge had in suspicion by Mr. doctor James for incontinent living whether to crime or other matter suggested before him, that they are clear of the fact for any matter of proof that might be made before us. Albeit we have examined Christopher Sandford and Elizabeth his wife and John Williams brother of the said Edith otherwise then the said Christopher affirmeth he hath heard a report that the said Edith should say that the said John Saffyn had sought her company two years sithence, and the said Elizabeth Sandford saith that Stone the apparitor told her that John Sweeting of the town of Bicknaller thelder had informed Mr. doctor James that Edith Williams had confessed to the said Elizabeth that John Saffyn was the father of her child, which the said Elizabeth doth deny. And that John Williams in respect of a warrant of the good behaviour procured by John Saffyn and John Rudge against him did publish that Edith had said that the said Saffyn had sought her company, which otherwise he saith he would not have done had it not been in respect of the said warrant. Further, Stone being examined touching this information to Dr. James how it should grow or arise, saith he knoweth not.

John Wyndham. Francis Heale. John Trevelian.

An order made at Watchet by the above Justices on 19th Dec., 1614. John Escott *als* Adhames shall put in sufficient sureties to the churchwardens or overseers of Bicknaller for the payment of such sums as have already been paid by the overseers from the birth of the child, and for its maintenance until it be apprenticed or otherwise provided for.

Item. We do order on behalf of the said Edith Williams that as soon as she may be found and apprehended, she shall be committed to the house of correction for one whole year, according to the Statute.

Lastly. This order to remain in force until further order be taken by us or the next General Sessions. [S.R., xx, 37, 38.]

John Wyndham.

John Trevelyan.

37. An order made by Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., on the 14th June, 12 James (1614) touching the base born child of Margaret Adhames of Compton Dando, of which she confesseth that Thomas Ingham, gent, is the father.

Inprimis we order that Thomas Ingham shall from the day of the birth of the said child pay viij pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens, until the child be bound apprentice or otherwise provided for, every Sunday after thend of morning prayer.

We do order that the mother shall keep the child without charging the said parish if she shall be found fit and able; and if she refuse then she shall pay viii pence weekly to the overseers.

As soon as this order has been made known to the parents, they shall put in good bond with sureties for the discharge of the parish and for the payment of the money.

Item. We do lastly order that the said Margaret Addames (*sic*) shall be conveyed by the tithyngman of Compton to the town of Pensford on the next market day after the publication of this our order; and be stripped from the shoulders to the waist and whipped about the market for an example to others to avoid the like offence. And as there is no certain ground or vehement presumption to inflict the same punishment on the reputed father, we therefore leave him to the judgement of the ordinary in that case to deal with him.

Thomas Bridges. Fra. Baber. [S.R., xx, 39.]

38. An order set down and established by Thos. Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq. touching the base-born child of Magdalen Fewell of Burnett, late of Old Sodbury in Gloucestershire, where she was in service with Roger Horton, gent, by

Nathaniel Abbott, at that time in the same service, who is charged to be the father of the child.

Inprimis. We do order that Nath. Abbott to pay ten pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens of Burnett for the relief and maintenance of the poor, which sum is to be paid every Sunday in church after morning prayer, until the child is able to maintain itself.

Item. We do order Thomas Kinton of Marston Biggott, being the deputy tithyngman of Mar. B., when Magdalen Fowell was committed to the house of correction by Robert Hopton, esq., for the wilful and negligent escape of the said Magdalen, to pay weekly the sum of vi pence, and x shillings, the same to be paid to the overseers in the parish church there every Sunday after morning prayer with tharrerages after the rate of vi pence weekly from the 7th day of October last past.

Item. The said Magdalen Fewell shall keep the child, or in case of refusal pay vi pence weekly for his maintenance.

We do likewise order that the said Magdalen Fewell for her further punishment shall be by the officers of Burnett stript naked from her middle upwards and by them shall be two several times whipped until her body be "bluddy" in manner and form following, vizt., the first at Penceford upon the next market day after she shall be taken, the second and last time at Burnet, to be done by the overseers of B. next after such time as she shall be apprehended by the said officers; and if either of the said parties shall refuse to abide this our said order, to be brought before us by the tithyngman that we may proceed against them according to the law.

Thomas Bridges. Fra. Baber. [S.R., xx, 40.]

39. Forasmuch as it appeareth unto us that Thomas Harte of Ilminster, groome, is the reputed father of the base-born child of Johane Elforde of Crewkerne; and forasmuch as we are to set downe order as well for the punishing of offenders as the relieving and keeping of the said child: We do order the said Thomas to pay six pence weekly, or otherwise take the said child and keep it, and further to enter into bond with sufficient

sureties unto the parish of Creukerne for the performance of this our order, Dated the 29th day of October, 1614. [S.R., xx, 42.]

G. Speke. Jo. Poulett.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT ILCHESTER the 18th, 19th, and 20th days of April, 13 James (1615), Before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Thomas Phelippes, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., Francis James, Doctor of laws, John Powlett, Thomas Warre, Alexander Ewens, Robert Hopton, John Farewell, Edward Popham, William Swanton, James Byse, Thomas Southworth, Joseph Rattle, and Barnabe Lewis, Esquires.

1. Edmund Pynny of Brodway was at this Sessions committed by the Bench for that being convented for scandalizing a minister, to prosecute his traverse upon an indictment for interrupting the said minister at divine service, and the parties which should give evidence against him for the same not being present, the Justices thought fit to continue him to the next Sessions following, whereupon the said Pynny in very disordered manner in the Courte said the Justices dealt hardly with him, for which cause they committed him.

2. Forasmuch as the overseers and other the inhabitants and tenants of North Curry have certified that Robert Seely [Ceelie in the certificate] of Lilsdon in the said parish, is a very poor man, and the lord of the manor hath given licence to him to build a house on the lord's waste of the said manor without laying four acres of land thereto, it is ordered at this Sessions that the house so built shall stand and remain, the Statute in that behalfe provided in any wise notwithstanding. [S.R., xx, 79.]

3. Forasmuch as an order was made at the last General Sessions held at Ilchester that the Causeway between the East-gate of Bridgewater and Crane Bridge should be repaired by the several parishes named in the order. Now the inhabitants

of Baudripp petition that the inhabitants of Chedsey, Chelton, Murlinch, Stowell, Sutton, Shapwick and Aishcott do refuse to perform the said order: Ordered that Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., and Edward Rogers, Esq., or any two of them shall call before them all such as do refuse, and shall order all such as shall make default of the same for the performance thereof. [S.R., xx, 62.]

4. Richard Knight of Staple Fitzpaine hath appeared and sworn that he hath served George Taylor, Thos. Davis *als* Welshman, Richard Nocholes, Addam Hussie, John Hitch, William Beere, Thos. Thorne, Mark Knight, and John Helliard with subpoenas returnable at [] Sessions last past, upon information depending in this Court against them for brewing contrary to the Statute, and they have not yet appeared: It is ordered that attachment be awarded against them returnable at the next Sessions.

5. The inhabitants of Chilcompton having complained that an order was made by Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., on them to receive and provide for Katherine Freinde, late servant unto William Caple, Esq., because she was found to be with child there, whereas the child was begotten before at Midsomer Norton: It is now ordered that for this cause the said Katherine shall be sent to Midsomer Norton to be provided for. [S.R., xx, 71.]

6. Whereas there is a difference touching the base child of Katherine Wosdell, whereof one John Burge is accused by her to be the father, and one John Bigge is also accused by her of bringing money from John Burge, and by other indirect courses to procure her to free the said Burge from the said child: The examination of the causes above specified is referred to Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, who shall certify their findings to the next Sessions.

7. The case of John Wright who is the reputed father of the child of Martha Pirry, is referred over to the next Sessions.

8. On a petition of the inhabitants of Leigh (on Mendip) that Mr. Thos. Bridges and his son, with other his tenants there have received divers inmates and undertenants into many houses and small cottages there, contrary to the law; and the said Mr. Bridges hath taken away the ground belonging to sundry tenements there, selling the houses only to poor men, which is likely to breed a great charge to the inhabitants: the Examination thereof is referred to Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, and James Byssie, Esquires. To order and determine the same.

9. Upon a petition of John Popham of Bawdripp that in regard of his poverty, Edward Tynte, Esq. did about two years last past, freely give unto him a ruinous old house with a garden plot adjoining in Pawlett; which was parcel of a tenement afterwards sold by Mr. Tynte to Hugh Bowne; whom Mr. Tynte did acquaint with his said gift and would have excepted the same but that Bowne faithfully promised before many witnesses that the petitioner should have the same for his life: notwithstanding Bowne hath now pulled down the house and denyeth him to enjoy the same. Ordered that Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., and Edward Rogers, Esq., or any two of them to examine and order and determine the same. [S.R., xx, 67.]

10. It is referred to John Maye and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, to order where Michael Phelippes of Henton Bluett shall be settled to inhabit.

11. On a petition presented by William Porter of Eddington, a very poor and impotent old man, that he hath for the most part of his life dwelt at Eddington, where he hath two pence allowed him weekly, but in regard of his great poverty and inability of body was enforced for his better relief about a fortnight sithence to visit some of his friends at Shapwick, where he received there alms, and being there taken by William Constable, one of the Constables of the Hundred of Whitleighe, was by his direction grievously whipped there and sent to Chedseye: It is referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis

Heale, Knts., Edward Rogers, and Robert Cuffe, Esquires, to take order for the relief of the petitioner, and also to call the said constable before them for the whipping, and to bind him over to the next Sessions then to answer the same, if they shall think fit. [S.R., xx, 52.]

12. Whereas Stephen Shackell, late of West Coker, is the reputed father of the base child of Isatt Lyas a very poor widow with two other children who liveth by the parish, and whereas the said Stephen has sold his estate and is gone into Ireland before any order was made; but hath taken bond of Thos. Smyth and Francis Sherwood of West Coker for the payment of iv pounds at our Lady day last past, as appeareth by a petition: It is ordered that Smyth and Sherwood do pay the said sum unto the next General Sessions, or else pay the interest thereof unto the churchwardens and overseers for the use and maintenance of the said Isatt Lyas, or if they refuse, to be bound over to the next General Sessions, to answer this contempt. [S.R., xx, 64.]

13. On the petition of George Bradshaw that he hath lived as an apprentice unto Robert Tanner at Ayshell, blacksmith, for seven years, and hath dwelt there almost four years more as a covenante servant with the said Tanner: It is now ordered that he shall be suffered to inhabit at A. if he can get a house, and that any such person as shall receive him there shall not anyway be damnified for the same, either by any "payne" or otherwise, in regard he hath so long time dwelled there, and ought not to be removed thence by due course of law.

14. It is ordered at this present Sessions that whereas by a former order William Randall being adjudged the father of the base child of Susan Abbott was taxed to a weekly payment for the same; and at the next Sessions (held at Taunton) after the order was made Randall being aggrieved with the order appealed, which appeal was heard at the Bridgewater Sessions, when after long hearing of the same cause, it was ordered that the said Randall was not the father of the child, but should be discharged thereof, and his bond redelivered. But it appeared

that Daniel Combstock was the father ; which order so made at Bridgewater being misentered by the clerk contrary to the direction of the Court, and that mistaking by the clerk openly confessed in Court, and being now questioned at the Sessions, and the Justices that were present at their ordering of the said cause at B. which now attended at this Sessions well remembering their said order. It was at this present Sessions at Ivelchester by the whole Court of Sessions reformed, requiring the same former order to be amended according to their intention and direction of the Court.

Tho. Phelipps, Edward Hext, Francis Heale, Tho. Warre
James Byss, John Farwell, Christopher Preston,
Barnaby Lewis.

[Bridgewater orders No. 2 : the clerk omitted "not" which has been added in another hand. S.R., xx, 53, 84, 85.]

15. Forasmuch as there are divers petitions now preferred unto the Justices of the Peace at this present Sessions for taking poor men tenants to their houses who are settled in sundry parishes, and by due course of law ought not to be removed thence. Yet notwithstanding divers Lords in sundry manors set down "paynes" in their Courts for the removing of such as have lawfully taken houses in to relieve themselves and their poor families. And forasmuch as it appeareth by the petition of Richard Addames that he hath dwelt in East Pennard by the space of twelve years, having a wife and five children, and about two years since entered into the house of John Coward there, and liveth honestly by his labour, who is now presented at the Law day for suffering the said Addames to dwell in his house, and hath a day given him there under a "paine" for his removal, whereby the said Addames is removed thence, having no other house to go unto or cover his head : It is therefore ordered that the said Richard Addames (in regard that he hath been dwelling there this twelve years, and cannot by law be removed thence) shall continue there and that it shall be lawful for him to take any house in the parish not inhabited, and that the "paynes" already past shall be stayed and not be distrained for, and that there shall be no more "paynes" given ; and farther that no

other persons or persons within this county who are so settled that by law they cannot be removed, shall be "payned" by any Lord or Lords of manors to remove such tenants from their lawful dwellings, that so by their labours and industries they may honestly get their livings to the better disburdening of all parishes to be at any charge with them. [S.R., xx, 54, 70.]

16. Forasmuch as a letter has been received from the Lords his Majesty's Council requiring them to relieve Captain Thomas Francklyne, who hath received many hurts and wounds in the service of her late Majesty of famous memory, out of such money as should be collected for the relief of maimed soldiers: It is ordered that the said captain shall have x pounds only allowed and paid by the treasurer for the maimed soldiers in consideration he shall be contented to free and discharge the County of Somerset from any farther allowance or pension to him as a maimed soldier. [S.R., xx, 83.]

Tho. Philipps, Edward Hext, Francis Heale, Tho. Warre,
Alex. Ewens, Robt. Hopton, Xtopher Preston.

[xx, 69, the letter bears the signatures of T. Ellesmere, Canc. T. Suffolke, Lenox, E. Wotton, Raphe Winwood, Fulke Grevyll, Tho. Lake; 68 is Francklyn's receipt. In the letter the name is Frankham.]

17. Whereas Sir Edward Hext, Knt., heretofore made an order on John Parker requiring him to pay monthly two shillings and eightpence to John Chambers towards the educating of the base child of Johane Chambers, until she should be of the full age of fourteen years, or either order be taken: We do now order the said Parker to pay to the said John Chambers v pounds in full discharge of the said former order, and [Chambers] to deliver the bond or otherwise to deliver the said child to the said John Parker.

Maurice Barckley, Ed. Hext, Franc. Heale, James Byss,
Barnaby Lewis. [S.R., xx, 63.]

18. Whereas Adrian West hath presented a petition that he hath been resident in Martock for six years and hath rented a

house for two years without the lett or contradiction of any parishioner, and without the relief of the same parish is able to maintain himself and his charge by his honest endeavour and labour: It is therefore ordered that the said Adrian West (in regard that he hath obtained a lawful settlement) shall be resident and settled in the said parish, and that none shall be troubled with any "paynes" forfeited or to be forfeited by any in the Leet or other Court for not removing the said Adrian.W. out of their house. [S.R., xx, 59, 60.]

19. Whereas it appeareth by the petition of the inhabitants of Eddington within the parish of Murlinch that one Anne Welchman *als* Weeles widow hath six poor children whereof two are already well placed in London by the inhabitants aforesaid; and three were born at Badgeworth, and one at Eddington: It is ordered that the settling of the three born at Badgeworth shall be referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell and Francis Heale, Knts., Edward Rogers, Edward Popham and Robert Cuffe, Esquires, or to any three of them. [S.R., xx, 55, 57, 61.]

20. An order concerning the base-born child of Mary Lyde of Chedsey; made by Sir Francis Heale, Knt., and Edward Rogers, Esq., at Cannington the 16th day of April, 1615.

Inprimis. As it appeareth by the accusation of the said Mary Lyde that John Francklin of Chedsey, husbandman, is the reputed father of the said child, he is hereby ordered to pay twelve pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Chedsey until farther order be taken.

Item. The said John Francklin shall give sufficient security by bond unto the churchwardens for the performance of the said order; and the money shall remain as a stock in their hands to be from time to time accountable for the same, for the sustentation and relief of the said child as necessity shall require, and they in their discretion shall think fit.

Lastly. The said Mary Lyde shall herself keep her child; and for the offence herein shall suffer punishment of whipping until her body be bloody; and the Constable

or Tythingman of the place where she is most abiding do or cause the same to be done.

Francis Heale, Edward Rogers. [S.R., xx, 80.]

21. Fees for the Clarke of the market to be taken for the execution of his office, set down in Trinity Term, 41 Elizabeth (1599).

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| First. For sealing every new bushel, for entering the same with their name and dwelling place of the owner thereof | iiij <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For sealing every half-bushel, etc. | ij <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For new sealing every lesser measure or weight, etc. | j <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For recording every "victular's" name, his dwelling place, and for viewing and examination of every particular ale and beer measures be they never so many, and for entering the same. | j <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For recording every Innholder's name and dwelling place, etc. | j <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For recording the names and dwelling places of every butcher, grocer, mercer, chandler, draper, clothier, and other artificer, entering of their weights, ells and yards, trying and examining the same, and for entering and examining of all their beams and balances. | ij <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For new sealing of every ell or yard at both ends, etc. | ij <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For trying and examining every lesser measure, formerly sealed, entering the same, etc. | ob. |
| Item. For trying and examining every bushel, formerly sealed, etc. | j <i>d.</i> |
| Item. For the trying and examination of every weight or measure of any person or persons that shall be found repugnant unto her Majesty's Standard who shall sell any commodities by a lesser weight or measure, or shall buy any | |

commodity by a greater weight or measure to
the "deceit" of the subject. ij*d*.

An order from the Chief Justices that this table of fees, approved by them "shall be recorded by the Clarke of the peece within every County of this Realme by the Speciall Commandment of every Justice of Peece being Custos Rotulorum of the same Countye or by his or there deputie." [*S.R.*, xx, 50.]

22. Whereas there was heretofore a reference made from the Sessions unto Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., Jas. Bysse and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, or two of them for the examining of witnesses in a cause of complaint against John Pearce, of Midsomer Norton, concerning his selling of ale and his unfitness; and Sir Thos. Bridges and Mr. Bysse have since certified that he is a very fit man; and therefore the said Pearce was in open court at Ivelchester now twelve months past licensed again to sell ale: Notwithstanding that, there have since been taken from him by distresses the sum of fifty shillings, and the said Pearce convented before Francis Baber and Barnaby Lewes, Esquires, and by them bound over to this Sessions: It is now ordered that a new examination of all the several differences and misdemeanours of the said Pearce which hath passed concerning him during the twelve months last past be again referred to the said Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., Edward Popham and James Bysse, Esquires, the said Barnaby Lewis, Esq., to "wyne" with them if he will, and to certify the Court back again the next Sessions.

[See Bridgwater Sessions, Orders No. 2 of this year 1615; *S.R.*, xx, 49, 50.]

23. Whereas there are now many differences between Edmund Dirrick of Uby and others concerning diverse matters alleged against the said Dirricke: Ordered that the matter be referred to Francis James, doctor of the Law and one of the masters of the Chancery. Thos. Southworth and Jos. Rattle, Esquires, or any two of them, to order and determine the same, and further that the parties on both sides shall be bound in several obligations each to other to abide the award and arbitrament made therein. [*S.R.*, xix, 99.]

24. Whereas Gregory Tucker of Bawdripp, a very poor man, hath obtained license from the lord of the manor with the consent of the tenants to erect a cottage for himself on a parcel of ground already granted for that purpose: Ordered that the said Tucker may erect a cottage for habitation, although there be not four acres of land laid unto the same according to the Statute.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON, the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th days of July, 13 James (1615), before Sir Maurice Barckley, John Mallett, Hugh Smythe, Nicholas Halswell, John Windham, Edward Hext, Thomas Phelipp, Knts., John Powlett, Edward Rogers, Thomas Warr, John Francis, John Trevelian, John Symes, Edward Popham, John Maye, James Bysse, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe, and Barnaby Lewis, Esquires.

1. Whereas at this present Sessions great complaint hath been made by Hugh Ball against John Fawkner, gent. for that they being joint-tenants or tenants in common of a certain messuage and farm in Charlton Mackrell, yet for thirty years and upwards the possessors and that from whom the said Fawkner claimeth have made partition of the grounds and "howseinges" of the said farm and each party hath known his own from the other; that the said Ball hath upon his known part used better manurance and husbandry than the said Fawkner and his predecessors upon his and their part have done, and hath also this present year sown many more acres of corn than the other. That the said Fawkner now upon the sudden meaning to defeat the said partition so long possessed in severalty and quietness, having eaten up all the grass upon his part, and mowed the other grass and converted it to hay, and securely possessed himself of the same, hath of late entered upon the said several grounds so long sithence divided and enjoyed by the said Ball. The Court therefore seeking therefore to provide for the preservation of the peace hath thought fit and doth order that Sir Edward Hext and Sir Thomas Phelipps, Knts., do take

such course that the King's peace may be preserved, and that the said Ball may secure his said crops, and that no spoil by beasts or other waste by Fawkner or his adherents or procurement may be suffered to be committed on that part of the premisses so enjoyed by Ball, nor by Ball on that part enjoyed by the said Fawkner to the best of their power until the law shall otherwise decide the same or such other order shall be taken.

Ed. Hext, Nich. Halswell, Edw. Popham, Tho. Warre, John Francis, James Bysse, Christopher Preston, Tho. Southworth, Tho. Brereton. [*S.R.*, xxii, 48.]

2. William Scorrier. At this Sessions it is ordered that in regard the keeper of the gaol is suffered to keep in prisoners in the house of correction, that the said keeper shall allow unto the keeper of the house of correction twelve pence for every prisoner committed now at this Sessions out of his fees which he shall receive of the said prisoners for that the said keeper of the house of correction hath provided his house fit for the keeping of the said prisoners during the said Sessions. [*S.R.*, xx, 68.]

3. Whereas Thomas North was at this Sessions bound over to appear upon suspicion of killing his wife about twenty years sithence, who was only accused by one Moyses Warren without any proofs at all, between whom are many suits depending, whereupon it was conceived to be followed maliciously by the said Warren: Ordered that Sir George Speake, Sir Thos. Phelipps, Knts., John Powlett and Christopher Preston, Esquires, or any two of them, do examine into the matters concerning the death of North's wife as well as all the other differences between the said parties, and to take such course therein as they shall think fit, and to bind over either of them refusing to perform their order therein.

4. The Muster Master. Having received from our honourable Lord Lieutenant a letter directed unto him from his Majesty wherein it doth not only approve of his "elleccion" of our Muster Master but also doth authorize him to take some present order for the levying of his

pay being fifty pounds yearly and the arrereages thereof, which letter his lordship having commended unto us his Majesty's justices of this county, and requiring us to levy the same as to our discretions shall seem meetest, and finding that he is "unpaid" of one hundred and twelve pounds, and that there is none so equal a course as to levy the same after a hundred rate, I wish you not to fail to levy within your hundred the sum of [], and the same to return unto me within these ten days, and hereof I require you not to fail as you tender his Majesty's service, and will answer the contrary at your peril.

Fra. Popham, Maur. Barckley, Hugh Smyth, Edward Hext, Nicho. Halswell, Tho. Phelippes, John Windham, Francis Heale, Edw. Rogers, John Powlett, Tho. Warre, John Symes, Edw. Popham, Rob. Hopton, John Trevelian, Natha. Styll, James Byss, Robert Cuffe.

5. Brewers in It is at this present Sessions ordered by the
Taunton. Court that no Innkeeper or Alehousekeeper shall brew any beer or ale to sell again, but that they take the same from the now Common Brewers, vizt. Mr. Robert Hill, John Thompson, Tristram Gardner, and Nicholas Smalle, being allowed this Sessions, who are to make good and wholesome beer at three pence the gallon, to be spent now or to be kept stalle as the Innkeeper or Tippler will bespeak it, the said Brewers not exceeding the rate of three pence the gallon. And that every barrel or vessel shall be kept sweet and wholesome, and to be marked on their heads how much they do contain. If any beer be brewed unwholesomely or otherwise defective, and not in the default of the drawer, that thereupon just complaint made to any one Justice of the Peace and approved and so approved as allowed by him, the Brewer shall receive the same back again and supply them with good and wholesome beer.

Edward Hext, Tho. Warr, Christopher Preston, Tho. Brereton.

6. On the petition of Margaret Thayer of Abbots "Ley" that she hath been married to her husband John Thayer for twenty-three years whereby he got all the living and mainten-

ance he hath, which he holdeth for his life only and hath thereby much increased his estate, yet notwithstanding he (by some ill imaginations and conceits against his wife by the setting on of some lewd persons) hath threatened to destroy his wife and hath sold away all his goods and let out the said living, whereby the said Margaret is by reason of her age in a miserable estate and had perished for want of food had not John Priest, who married her daughter, relieved her, he also not receiving part of the living promised to him on his marriage. Referred to Sir Edward Gorges, Knt., to examine the causes above specified, and to order and determine the same. And if John Thayer refuses to perform such order, to bind him over to the next Sessions to answer the premisses. [S.R., xx, 1.]

7. Petition of the overseers of the parish of West Coker that whereas Stephen Shackle the reputed father of the base born child of Isatt Foster, widow, is now by the persuasion of one Thos. Kinge of the same parish gone out of the country, whereby the said child is very chargeable to the said parish. Referred to John Powlett and Christopher Preston, Esquires, to examine the cause and to order and take course for the relief of the child, [S.R., xxii. 4. See Ilchester Sess., Order No. 12, 1615.]

8. Licence for Thomas Orchard of Widcombe parish where he hath lived for twenty years, being a very poor man without a house to receive and succour himself his wife and children, yet hath the consent and goodwill of the inhabitants as appeareth by their certificate, to erect a cottage upon a plot of waste land provided he may obtain leave of the lord of the manor. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 13; xx, 63, 64.]

9. Whereas there is a cottage already built in the parish of Greinton for one Samuel Hull, a very poor man, but of honest and good behaviour as appeareth by a certificate, who holdeth the same by copy of Court Roll. Ordered that the said cottage so built shall stand although there be not four acres of land laid to the same. [S.R., xix, 1; xx, 66.]

10. On a petition by Johane Sibly that one William Hacker of Kingsbury shoemaker hath many ways abused his apprentice

her son George, by extraordinary ill courses: Ordered that Sir George Speke, Knt., and Christopher Preston, Esq. shall examine and determine the same, the apprentice to stay with his mother until the said Justices have set down their order herein which the said Hacker in open court consented unto. [S.R., xx, 65, 67.]

11. John Wright the reputed father of the base born child of Martha Pirry is ordered to take away the child from the parish of Langford Budvyle and keep it, and further within a fortnight to give security to discharge the parish of all costs and charges incurred since the birth of the child unto this day and until he take it away, which charges are to be paid within one month.

12. At this Sessions it is ordered that the examination of the cause touching the base born child of Katherine Woosdall wife of Henry Woosdall whereof John Burges is by her accused to be the father, and one John Bigges also charged by her for procuring her to free the said J. Burges from the said child by indirect courses, shall be committed to the hearing of Sir Maurice Barckley and Sir Thos. Bridges, Knts., Robert Hopton and Edward Popham, Esquires, or any two of them; but all the said Justices to have notice given them of the time and place of the meeting by the said Burges or Bigges; and further the Justices shall examine a supposed receipt of a felon by the said Burges and a cause touching the said John Bigges concerning the not executing of a warrant delivered to him by James Bysse, Esq. concerning the placing of the said K. Woosdall. [S.R., xxii, 11.]
[See Ilchester Sessions, Order No. 6, 1615.]

13. Order that the Churchwardens and Overseers of Wridlington [Writhlington] shall place and maintain Katherine Woosdall and her child until farther order be taken.

14. Composition It is ordered that all the Composition Money. money out of the Western Division shall be paid as anciently it hath been paid, and that the four pounds which hath been usually paid out of the Hundreds of Whitley Cannington and some other Hundreds in ease of the Hundreds of Milverton and the four western tithings

for their charge of composition, which said four pounds is to be paid to the said Hundreds of Milverton and the four western tithings rateably after the rate of levying of men and money for other his Majesty's service by the Hundreds of Whitley and Cannington and the other hundreds as aforesaid, unless the Hundreds of Williton and Freemanors and the Hundred of Carhampton do show good cause to the contrary at the next Sessions.

15. Ordered that all differences between the parishioners of Dowlinge and one [] Hayward be referred to the hearing of Thomas Hughes and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, who are to order and determine the same before the next Sessions.

16. Whereas there hath been and yet is a difference between the parishes of Mynehead and Weston touching the settling of one Elizabeth Tucker, daughter of Ralph Tucker, born at Weston: It is now ordered that the full hearing of the cause be referred to the next Sessions to be finally settled.

See Wells Sessions 1615, Order No. 33.

17. Ordered that Mr. John Maye, Nathaniell Still and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, or two of them, shall take order for laying the charge of keeping the base-born child of Joan Lewis and discharging the parish upon John Coxe the elder of Sanford father of the reputed father of the said child, John Boyse and John Lusher of Uphill, for conveying away the reputed father until the same be brought back again.

18. Upon a petition by Richard Longe of Taunton merchant that he is seised of and in one orchard and three acres of land called St. Poles adjoining to the Burrough of Taunton which he doubteth is not full four acres upon which he desireth to build a convenient house for habitation, and upon just respect by us conceived: We do order that the said Richard Longe shall erect and build a competent mansion and dwelling house.

Franc. Popham, Edw. Hext, Nich. Halswell, Edw. Popham
Tho. Warr, Jos. Symes, Tho. Southworth.

19. Order that Thomas Parsons of Middleseye, husbandman, father of Margaret the base-born child of Sidwell Fysher do pay six pence weekly to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish for the maintenance of the said child until he shall take and keep it, entering into bond with two sureties in the sum of twenty pounds for the true payment of the said weekly allowance ; and that the said Sidwell Fysher shall breed up and keep the child upon the weekly allowance. Made the 8th day of February, 1614(-5). [S.R., xx, 6.]

Nich. Halswell.

Edw. Hext.

20. Order that Joseph Androwes of Maperton, yeoman, having been found by the confession of Julyan Harte, and the testimony of divers credible and honest women to be the father of the bastard child of the said Julyan, do pay eight pence weekly unto the Collectors for the poor of the said parish upon every Saboth day immediately after Morning Prayer towards the sustentation and bringing up of the said child, from the day of the birth being the 9th of April ; that the said Julyan do continually breed up, foster and keep the said child until it shall be placed out : further that the said Jos. Androwes and Julyan Harte with one security do enter into bond in twenty marks to hold the parish harmless of all charges ; first day of May, 1615. [S.R., xx, 69.]

Alex. Ewens.

John Farewell.

21. Order that Thomas Higdon of Shapwicke, tailor, being accused by Margaret Champion as the father of her base-born child, do pay sixpence weekly to the Overseers of the poor of Shapwick, to be kept in stock and employed according to their discretion for the relief, maintenance and education of the said child, until farther order be given :—

Item. Thos. Higdon shall become bound with two sufficient sureties to perform the said order.

Item. Margaret Champion shall at her own proper costs keep and educate the said child, or presently put in security unto the Churchwardens to pay weekly towards the relief of the child six pence.

Item. That this order shall continue until farther order be taken therein according to the Statute. [S.R., xx, 70.]

Nich. Halswell. Edw. Hext. Robert Cuffe.

22. After hearing of the matter of bastardy alleged by Rebecca Moore of Huish Champflower touching her base born child against John Marsh the younger who hath confessed that he is the father: We do order that upon notice given to him of this our order he shall put in bonds with sufficient sureties to the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish will and sufficiently to maintain, sustain and provide for the said child.

Item. We do order on the part of the said Rebecca Moore that she shall be forthwith committed unto the House of Correction in Taunton there to remain, be set to work and punished, according to the orders of the said house for one whole year according to the Statute: dated the 6th of May, 1615. [S.R., xx, 89.]

John Windham. John Trevelyan.

23. Order that whereas John Trapnell late of Taunton, apothecary, appeareth by manifest proofs to be father of the base-born child of Johane Merrick, he do pay to the Churchwardens and Overseers of St. James (Taunton) the sum of twelve pence weekly for keeping the said child, and shall likewise pay eighteen shillings before the 19th day of this April next, which sum is manifestly provided to be expended for the relief of the said child. Further that the said Trapnell shall give security to the Churchwardens and Overseers to preserve this our order. [S.R., xx, 88.]

Tho. Warre. Tho. Brewton (*sic*).

BRIDGWATER: GENERAL SESSIONS held the 19th, 20th, and 21st days of September, 13 James (1615) Before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., Edward Rogers, George Luttrell, Edward Popham,

Thomas Warr, Francis James, Doctor of laws, James Bisse, Robert Cuffe, Christopher Preston, John Maye, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires.

1. Whereas an order was made that John Powell the reputed father of John the base-born child of Christian Middleton should pay to the overseers of North Petherton three pounds, which was accordingly paid ; and the said child is now well placed with Mr. Warre : It is now ordered that the overseers shall pay over the said money to Mr. Warre for the use of the said child ; and in regard they have had the money in their hands for sixteen years, the overseers shall pay for the money if two Justices shall think fit. [S.R., xxii, 19.]

2. Ordered by the Court that William Pearce shall have licence to tittle until my lord chief Baron do take other order, and that the recognizance by him forfeited shall be respited. [S.R., xxii, 49.]

3. Ordered that the case of the base-born child of Joan Crosse of Nettlecombe whereof John Chibbett is the reputed father shall be referred to the hearing and determining of the two next Justices in that limit, who shall also examine the lewdness of the said Joane as well touching the naming of another father for the said child as otherwise.

4. Whereas there is now a matter in difference between Edward Wastfeild and William Lillywhite touching the tearing of a bond wherein the said Lillywhite and one Webbe stood bounden unto the said Wastfeild, for which cause the said Lillywhite hath been already bound over unto two Sessions : It is now ordered that the examination thereof shall be referred to Sir Hugh Smyth, Sir Edward Gorges, Knts., and John Maye and Francis Baber, Esquires, or any three of them, whereof the said Mr. Baber to be one.

5. A letter to the Justices of Devon.

Whereas one John Williames dwelling at Nether Stowey, being charged to be the reputed father of the base-born child of

Anne Davy fled into your county of Devon, whereby one John North, who was bound for his appearance, is now chargeable with keeping the child ; and whereas the said North prosecuted the said Williames into your County, and procured a warrant from Mr. Walcombe, whereby the said Williames was apprehended and in the custody of John Soper constable of Chidly, who took his master's word for his being forthcoming, but the said Williames was conveyed away: Our desires unto you therefore that you will be pleased to give aid unto this bearer for the apprehending of the said Williames, or otherwise to take such course with the said constable that he may bring the said Williames to the next Sessions.

6. Forasmuch as it hath been made manifest in open Court that Nicholas Hamon apprentice unto Thomas Ilverton of Taunton, weaver, hath been of late greatly abused by his master, and hath received small knowledge in his trade, whereupon he is inforced to reform unto his parents, who must return him or otherwise he must be utterly undone: We do hereby order him to be discharged of his apprenticeship and to take his benefit in preference with some other man who may better instruct him. Given at Bridgwater Sessions.

Fr. Popham. Nich. Halswell. Tho. Warre. Ed. Popham.

7. Whereas at the last Wells Sessions the question of the settlement of Elizabeth Tucker was referred to certain Justices who have found that her settlement is at Minehead in regard that her father was dwelling there at the time of her birth and three years before, and have therefore made an order accordingly unless the inhabitants of Minehead should show cause to the contrary before the next Sessions following the making of the said order: The said order is now confirmed and to continue until the Justices who made the order shall alter it. [S.R., xxii, 22.]

8. Ordered that Katherine Wosdall shall be sent unto Hatchbury [Heytesbury] in the county of Wilts to be received and provided for in regard she was then last settled by the space of a year.

9. Whereas Simon Ingram was at this Sessions indicted and found guilty for erecting a cottage and not laying thereto four acres of land according to the Statute, the Court notwithstanding hath thought it fit that Sir John Wyndham, Knt., and John Trevilian, Esq., together with the parishioners of Stogumber shall repair to the place where the cottage is built, and if they find that it may stand with conveniency and so return their answer at the next Sessions, then the said Simon is to be licensed by the Sessions for the inhabiting of the said cottage. [S.R., xxii, 41.]

10. Whereas there is a difference between the parishes of Crocombe and Wivelescombe touching the placing as well as the settling of Agnes Hill now with child begotten at Crocombe, as is alleged, where she cannot be received: Referred to four Justices living nearest the two parishes, who shall examine witnesses and report to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxii, 25.]

11. Composition Ordered that the four pounds now in Money. controversy between the Hundreds (Taunton Sess. 1615, No. 14) be paid to Sir Francis Popham this year for the relief of Milverton Hundred and the four western tithings, and that the examination thereof be referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, Knt., Mr. Baber, Mr. Symes, Mr. Bysse, Mr. Brereton, and Mr. Still, or any four of them, to be examined by Taunton Sessions next. The Justices are to meet first at Wellington Thursday in Whitson week next, at Dunster Friday following, and so at Orchard then next following for the better informing themselves of the estate of the country. And if they do not meet and make a final order before the Taunton Sessions, then the next year the four pounds to be paid unto Sir John Wyndham and Mr. Luttrell or one of them for the relief of the Hundreds of Carhampton and Williton and Freemanors, if it be not ordered to the contrary at the Taunton Sessions. And if the Justices do not meet and the default of the meeting of the Hundreds of Carhampton etc., they are to lose the four pounds, and so with regard to Milverton Hundred etc., if it be their default.

12. Ordered that Edward Popham Esq., shall be the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers in this county for the year to come; and that James Byſſe and Robert Cuffe Eſquires do take the account of [.]

13. Whereas on a petition from the inhabitants of Eddington the question of the ſettlement and relieving of three children of the widow Anne Welchman *als* Weeles was referred to certain Juſtices (as in the order); who ordered the three children to be ſent to Badgworth where they were born: Now notwithstanding this order, upon good cauſe ſhown by the pariſhioners of Badgworth, it is thought fit that theſe three children be ſent back to Eddington, when their mother now and by a long time hath inhabited, to be received and provided for, unleſs the pariſhioners of Eddington do ſhow good cauſe to the contrary at or before the next General Sessions. [Ilcheſter Sess., 1615, No. 19.]

14. Petition by Dominicke Fiſher of Bridgwater that by a fire at Stogumber "the 20th of May laſt was twelvemonth" he hath ſuſtained great loſs and is driven into great neceſſity and want: Ordered that the Treasurer for the hoſpitals of the weſter diſiſion ſhall pay to the ſaid Fiſher vi pounds, xiiis^h. and iiij^d., towards his relief when the ſame ſhall come into ſtock. [S.R., xxii, 32.]

15. Licence for John Bulpaine of Dunwear in the pariſh of Bridgwater, who is a very poor man with great charge of wife and children without a houſe, and hath obtained leave from Edward Popham lord of the manor with the conſent of the pariſhioners then to erect a cottage upon ſome waſte plot of ground to build the cottage aforeſaid, without laying thereto four acres of land according to the Statute. [S.R., xxii, 44.]

16. Whereas there is x pounds required by Mr. Dupper out of this county towards the furniſhing of her Maſteſty with beer caſks at Bath: Ordered that the Treasurer for the maimed ſoldiers ſhall pay the ſaid ſum, and this county to be freed from any farther charge of purveyance of caſks for her Maſteſty. [S.R., xxii, 43.]

[Anne of Denmark in 1613 made a progress to Bath, where the Queen's Bath was named in her honour, and to Bristol whence she departed in tears saying that "she never knew she was a Queen till she came to Bristol." This journey was estimated by Chamberlain as likely to cost 30,000*l.*, D.N.B., I, 435.]

17. Licence for John Standfast labourer, of Hutton, where he hath dwelt for twenty-five years, but having a wife and child is destitute of a house, and hath obtained the consent of Sir Edmond Ludlow, Knt., and Nathanaell Still, Esq., lords of the manor and divers of the parishioners, to build a cottage with the said manor, the Statute to the contrary notwithstanding. [S.R., xxii, 13, 14.]

19. Order made by Robert Cuffe and Edward Popham Esquires touching the relief of the base born child of Johane Williams late of Puriton, made the 20th of September, 1615.

Firstly: as it appeareth from the accusation of the said Johane as by other circumstances and proofs that John Bishopp of Puriton, yeoman, is the father of the said child, he is ordered to pay viii pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers for the necessary relief and maintenance of the said child and parish.

Item; he is to enter into bond with two sufficient sureties in the sum of x pounds for the performance of the order, the money to remain as a stock in the hands of the churchwardens, who shall be accountable for the same, for the sustentation of the said child.

Lastly: the said Johane Williams shall her own self keep and maintain her bastard child as long as she shall be able; and for her offence therein shall suffer punishment of whipping at Puriton until her body be bloody, and that the constable or tithyngman then shall do or cause to be done. [S.R., xxii, 12.]

Ed. Popham.

Robert Cuffe.

20. John Bishop doth hold himself aggrieved by this order and at this present Sessions doth appear unto the Court for a remedy therein.

[See Wells Sess. 1615-6, Order 39.]

21. Order made by John Maye, Nathanaell Still, and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, touching the base born child of Johane Lewis of Hutton, spinster, and John Cox the younger of Sampford in Winscombe, husbandman.

Imprimis. The said John Cox to pay viii pence weekly to the Churchwardens on Sunday after Morning Prayer, the money to be reserved for a stock to be raised for the said child.

Item. The said Johane Lewis to keep the child herself, or else to pay twelve pence weekly to the Churchwardens.

Item. For the punishment of the said Johane Lewis for that it appeareth that there was a contract of matrimony agreed upon between the said parties and the "bands" of matrimony therefore published accordingly we therefore forbear to set down any order of whipping, but do refer her punishment therein to be censured by the ecclesiastical laws.

Lastly. For the reputed father in that it doth not plainly appear but the confession of the mother that he is guilty of the said offence, we do likewise leave him to be censured by the ecclesiastical laws. [S.R., xxii, 10.]

John Maye.

Joseph Rattle.

22. Order made by Alexander Ewens and John Farewell, Esquires, concerning the bastard child of Margaret Perry, spinster, of which child one John Haway of Yarlinton the elder, husbandman, is the father as by their voluntary confessions before divers honest persons doth appear.

Inprimis. The said Margaret Perry shall keep the child until it shall be able to be placed in some fit and convenient service.

The said John Haway shall pay eight pence weekly unto the overseers of Charlton Horethorne upon every "Saboth" day immediately after morning prayer, to use and take such careful and charitable means whereby the child may be orderly used and brought up, and the inhabitants of Charlton discharged and held harmless.

The said John Haway and Margaret Perry and either of them with one sufficient surety besides themselves shall enter into bond of xx pounds to the overseers for the performance of this order. Dated 11th day of September, 1615. [S.R., xxii, 53.]

Alex. Ewens.

John Farwell.

23. Whereas divers trifling and small suits are now depending between Thomas Napper gent. of the one part, and Thomas Hopkins, late one of the hundred of Tintenhull, and divers others of the parishioners of Tintenhull of the other part, as well in this present Sessions as also in the Ecclesiastical Courts at Wells, whereby great sums of money are likely to be spent and wasted to the impoverishment of divers persons; And for that all the parties made this present day humble suit unto this Court, that the said differences might by licence of this Court and of the Ecclesiastical Court be ended and determined in a quiet and peaceable course if it might be:

It is therefore ordered and the Court was pleased to license, the said parties to make a final end of all the said small matters and controversies that doth not in any wise concern any title or interest of lands, tithes, or debts, and therefore by the consent of all parties this Court hath ordered that Sir Robert Phelips Knt., out of the parties own submission, shall make a final end of the said controversies (and by the consent of Mr. Doctor James, being present [in] court), if he may at certifie the court at the next Sessions to be holden for this county, what end he hath made between the said parties, whereupon the Court will take such course as they shall think fit for the causes now depending in this said court. And if the said Sir Robert Phelippes cannot make an end between them, the Court desireth him to certifie at the next Sessions in whose default the same is, and thereupon to proceed upon the Indictments.

SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th days of January, 13 James (1615-6), before Sir James Ley, Knt., Attorney of the Court of Wards and Liveries, Sir Maurice Barkeley, Thomas Bridges, Edward Hext, and John Horner, Knts., Francis James, Doctor of Laws, Robert Hopton, Thomas Hughes, John Farwell, Christopher Preston, Francis Baber, Nathanael Still, Barnaby Lewis, James Bysse, Thomas Simcox, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires.

ORDERS.

1. Whereas the Court is informed that Thomas Churchouse is the reputed father of two base-born children of one Mary Gibbes, and that John Byfield is the reputed father of a third base child of the said Gibbs, who, after the birth of the said child four years ago, immediately fled the country and hath forborne the same since ; and where also it is informed that by some lewd practice used by the said Churchhouse and others, one William Hext is accused to be the father of the two last born children, who has prayed that all the premises might be examined : Ordered that all the parties shall at some convenient time attend John Maye and Nathanael Still, Esquires, who are appointed to examine the same cause and to make such order as in their good discretion shall be thought fit. [S.R., xxv, 38.]

2. Ordered that "in regard there was cause shown to the contrary by the parishioners of Edington" the three children of the widow Welchman, *als.* Weels, lately sent back from Badgworth, shall be received, kept, and provided for at Edington, according to the former made at Bridgwater.

[The clerk has evidently omitted "no" before cause.]

3. Whereas Richard Gellicombe standeth indicted and presented for a common tippling house without licence at Croscombe where he now dwelleth, and at Dinder where he lately dwelt ; and for that he allegeth his house at Croscombe to be an ancient inn, giving proofs which were not sufficient to give

the Court due satisfaction : It is referred to Robert Hopton and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, to call before them some parishioners of Croscombe to examine whether the house be an ancient inn or not, and also to examine touching his tippling without licence at Dinder, and to certifie the Court at the next Wells Sessions how they find it, binding over the said Gellicombe and such as give evidence therein to the said Sessions.

4. On the petition of John Sealy of Spaxton, subscribed by Mr. Powell and others the inhabitants there, that he has had great losses by reason of a fire which consumed his house and all his goods : It is ordered that the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the Western Division shall pay him five pounds towards his relief and maintenance of himself and his family. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 35.]

5. Whereas complaint hath been lately made unto some of the Justices that John Sheppard *als.* Blewitt and Edward Gallway the elder for some abuses by them done in levying of money upon and by the estreats of the County Court book, whereupon they were bound over to the good behaviour and to appear at this present Sessions; and for that the said John Sheppard with Edward Gallway the younger and John White were at this Sessions indicted for the unlawful taking and driving of seven kyne of William Wotton for the levying of certain forfeitures and amercements estreated against the said Wotton out of the County Court (as they allege), whereby they justify the taking of the said kyne : It is now referred to Francis James, doctor of the law, and Thos. Southworth, Esq., to examine the said causes, including that of two other kyne distrained from Richard James by the same authority, and to order what and how much money shall be taken of the said Wotton and James if they shall find the amercements to be according to the Statute, and if otherwise then to bind over all the parties which were at the doing thereof to the next Sessions.

6. Order that Richard Arnold *als.* Taylor shall be released out of prison, for that he hath "laxon" there above a year, and cannot find sureties in respect of his poverty to discharge the

parish of a base-born child whereof he is father ; and farther that he shall be no more troubled for the same offence unless he shall be found to be sufficient and of ability.

7. Order that Walter Younge may erect a cottage at Othe in the manor of Aller upon a plot of ground 80 feet in breadth and 120 feet in length, late in the tenure of one Fort, widow, if he procure licence from the lord of the manor, although he do not lay four acres of land thereto according to the Statute.

8. Whereas there was an order made at the last Sessions at Taunton to allow Thomas Orchard to build a cottage at Witcombe, as he had obtained the consent of the inhabitants given in a certificate now in Court, conditionally upon obtaining licence of the lord of the manor since obtained, which order some of the inhabitants do refuse to be bound by, alleging that they were compelled to that certificate as appeareth by another certificate : Ordered that Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., Edward Popham, and James Bisse, Esquires, shall examine this cause and take order therein ; also examine whether the Court were abused by any of the certificates, and bind over the guilty parties. To certifie at the next Sessions how they find this cause to be. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 12, licence of Hughe Sexey ; No. 13, order of the Court ; No. 14, inhabitants' complaint ; final order, xxv, 98.]

9. Another order (confirming one made at Wells 1614-5, No. 6), on Thos. Ingham of Compton Dando for the maintenance of the base-born child of Margaret Oddams. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 26.]

10. Forasmuch as William Newborne hath in open court confessed his fault for hunting in the park of Lady Stallenge, being formerly convicted upon an indictment and judgment given, in which it was ordered amongst other things that he should be bound to the good behaviour for seven years ; and John Marshfield, gent., also prosecuted for Lady Stallenge, having informed the Court that he hath given satisfaction, and that therefore he is contented that Newborne shall be released of his good behaviour : The Court doth order that the recognizance taken accordingly shall be made void and discharged.

[Lady Stallenge was Florence, widow of Christopher Kenn of Kenn, and wife of Sir Nicholas Stallenge (*ob.* 10th Jan., 1605, M.I., Kenn), of Yatton : Coll. III, 592, 617.]

11. Order that Robert Hopton and Edward Popham, Esquires, shall examine Henry Woodsall (when he can be found) touching his wife's base-born child, and if they think fit to bind him and one Burge over to the next Sessions.

12. Whereas there have been several orders made for the placing of Katherine Woodsall both in Wriglington in this county and in Hatchbury in Wilts., notwithstanding which orders she cannot be received in either place and is like to perish, wherefore the Justices examining the cause openly in Court this Sessions did order that the said Katherine shall be placed in Wriglington, there to be relieved if she be impotent, and if not then to be set on work ; and if they shall refuse to receive her, then Edward Popham and James Bysse, Esquires, shall examine the cause, and if they think fit, bind over the parties refusing to the next Sessions.

13. Ordered that in respect Anne Goldinge is a young woman and well able to work for her living, and her father a man of good ability, that she shall have house room provided for her by the inhabitants of Woolley ; or if there be no house to receive her, that her father do erect one for her there, which if he refuse to perform, that Robert Hopton and Edward Popham, Esquires, may call him before them to order and determine the same. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 23, 39.]

14. Whereas Richard Hollway was bound by recognizance to appear at this Sessions, and hath presented a petition that there are sundry executions against him in the sheriff's hands, so that if he should appear he would be arrested, which would tend to his utter undoing : It is referred to Robert Hopton and James Bisse, Esquires, to send for the said Hollway and examine the cause of his binding over, and thereupon to take order therein. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 22.]

15. Order that the Treasurers of the Hospitals shall forthwith pay over unto the Under-Sheriff the sum of forty shillings already due unto the Marshallsey, and nine shillings more due for charges through their neglect in payment thereof.

16. Whereas the Jury of the Hundred of Bempstone do desire that some of the tipplers in the parish of Wedmore might be suppressed, for that they are too many, being six in number, and they account one or two to be sufficient: Ordered that the Justices of the same limit do examine who are the fittest men to be tipplers and to licence them, and to suppress the rest.

17. Upon good cause shown it is ordered that Thomas Maggs shall go back again from Pill where he now dwelleth to Lovington where he hath formerly for a long time dwelt; yet he may make his best profit and benefit of his house in Pill, so as he doth not place above one tenant or household in the said house; and if the parishioners of Lovington shall refuse to receive him, that the next Justice within that limit may bind over such as do refuse to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 37.]

18. From the petition of Dorothy Webbe and Thomas Tayler of Langridge it appeareth that the said Tayler about two years past bought of Mr. Lawrence Waldron of Langridge a little cottage for three lives, but cannot yet have possession for four years, during which time it was formerly set, by reason whereof the parishioners of L. will not suffer him and his wife in the meantime to inhabit in the parish, although the said Dorothy Webbe is ready to give the parish sufficient bond to discharge them of any charge that may happen: Referred to Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, to examine the cause, and order and to determine the same. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 30.]

19. Whereas a petition hath been presented from the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Chewton, that George Cowper, Esq., who enjoyeth the tithes and profits of the parsonage of Chewton, and Mr. Anthony Eaglesfield, vicar of the parish, refuse to pay their share of the poor rate: Referred

to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., to order and determine the same, and to take course therein according to the Statute. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 33.]

20. Whereas one Alexander Gunham, a poor maimed soldier, hath hitherto had a yearly allowance of forty shillings, by which said payment he is not able to relieve himself in respect of his many wounds, whereby he is enforced to crave a greater allowance: It is therefore ordered that the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers shall henceforth pay him the sum of three pounds by quarterly payments, so as the said Gunham do never again require a greater allowance, on pain of forfeiture of the said three pounds. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 48.]

21. Whereas John Willis of Rodney Stoke has appealed from an order made by John Maye and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, requiring him as the reputed father to contribute to the relief of the base-born child of Johane Jennings: It is referred to be examined at the next Sessions for that the said order is not yet certified in this Court.

22. Ordered that the estreats of the County Court book during Sir John Horner his year shall be examined by Francis James, Doctor of the law, Thos. Hughes and Thos. Southworth, Esquires, or any two of them.

Sir John Horner was sheriff 1616-7.

23. On a petition preferred by William Lane that he hath lived for twenty years in Stoke Rodney without being chargeable to the parish, but now having received some hurts in his limbs is not able to work, whereupon the overseers have carried him to Draycott in the parish of Cheddar, and have laid him in a small cottage, whereof they allege he owneth one-third part, which is but four feet or thereabouts in breadth; and on another petition by the overseers of Cheddar: Ordered that the overseers of Stoke Rodney shall forthwith fetch back Will. Lane to their parish, when with his wife and child he shall be received, kept, and relieved (in respect he hath for so long time dwelt there) until they do show good cause to the contrary. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 10, 25.]

24. On a petition from the parishioners of Keynsham that a bridge called Downe bridge in the said parish is very foundrous and much fallen in decay to the great danger of all people travelling over the same : Referred to Sir Hugh Smith and Sir Thos. Bridges, Knts., Edward Popham, Francis Baber, James Byse, and Will. Capell, Esquires, or any four of them, to examine and see whether the said town, or the hundred, or part of the same, are to repair the said bridge, and thereupon to order and determine the same according to the Statute. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 34.]

25. Whereas the parishioners of Midsomer Norton have alleged that William Panter, son of William Panter, the reputed father of the base-born child of Katheryn Fryn, has been conveyed away by his said father to avoid discharging the parish of the cost of the said child, whereby they have had to maintain the child since the birth thereof : Ordered that Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., Francis Baber and Edward Popham, Esquires, shall call before them the said Will. Panter the father and cause him to bring his son to give security, or else give security himself ; and if he do refuse, then to bind him over to the next General Sessions.

26. Copy of an order made at Wells, 6 James [1608-9].

Whereas the Court hath been credibly informed that the inhabitants of Somerton are much overburdened with impotent and distressed poor people, as the said town and parish cannot relieve and maintain without their over great and intolerable charge ; in consideration thereof the adjoining parishes of Long Sutton, Kingsdon, Awler, and Yvelton shall each pay twenty shillings to the overseers and churchwardens of Somerton by the collectors of the poor of the aforesaid parishes, the first payment to begin at the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lady next following.

Edw. White, clericus pacis.

27. Whereas complaint was now made that some of the said parishioners are behind in payment of the same, examination thereof is referred to Sir Edward Hext, Knt., who is to call

before him such as are or shall be behind in their payments, and bind them over to the next General Sessions.

28. On a petition from the inhabitants of Salford that they have many poor that want houses, and two poor widows, the one having six small children and the other five, who do want houses : Ordered that the house already built for the relief of the poor within the said parish shall be enlarged and built bigger, according to the discretion of the overseers and other the parishioners, and that they do make an equal rate for the same upon the inhabitants according to their abilities and estates. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 42.]

29. Order that Robert Poole of Cudworth shall pay unto Henry Gullocke 53*sh.* and 4*d.* at Lady day next.

30. Forasmuch as by a letter subscribed by Sir William Waad, Knt., Muster master general of England, it appeareth that Anthony Rosewell hath served as a soldier in sundry services, as may appear also by a certificate under the hands of several captains under whom he served, whereby he hath received many wounds and is maimed in one hand : Ordered that the said Anthony shall have ten pounds allowed him by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers, so that he doth not at any time hereafter procure a yearly payment or pension out of this County ; and if so, then this ten pounds to be deducted out of the said yearly pension. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 29.]

[For Waad, see D.N.B., lviii, p. 401, where this office is not mentioned.]

31. Whereas one of the churchwardens and the overseers of Weston near Bath have placed one Alice Nevil, a widow with child, in a cottage built upon parcel of the demesnes of Weston, without the consent of John Kerrie, Esq., holder of the demesne by Letters patent of the late Queen Elizabeth, as appeareth by a petition now preferred to the Court : Ordered that the view and examination of the premises shall be referred to Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, to take such course as shall seem to them requisite. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 47, 49.]

32. Whereas William Godfrey did serve as a soldier in the time of the late Queen's Majesty, in which service he received divers hurts and maims in his body, by reason whereof he cannot maintain himself, his wife and family, as appeareth by a letter from Sir Will. Waad [see order No. 30 above]: Ordered that he shall be allowed him a yearly pension of forty shillings quarterly by the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers, the first payment to commence at this Sessions. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 44.]

33. On the petition of the parishioners and overseers of Horsington that there is a base-born child of Frances Codd, supposed to have been born at Horsington, but by the confession of the said Frances on her death-bed, born at Cucklington; now by reason of some doubt of the place of the birth of the said child, that it may be referred to two of his Majesty's Justices next adjoining: Ordered that the settling of the child shall be referred to John Farwell, Barnaby Lewiss and Will. Swanton, Esquires, or to any two of them. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 45, 46.]

34. Licence for Thomas Watts of East Pennard to build a cottage on a small plot of ground which he hath purchased, although he is not able to lay four acres of land thereto, in consideration that he hath lived sixteen years there. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 32.]

35. Whereas Sir Richard Coxe, Knt., Clerk of the Green Cloth, directed his warrant unto the constables of the Hundred of Brewton for the providing of twenty carts for the Queen's Majesty's service whiles she was at Bath, and the constables have sent unto the tithings of Brewham and Redlynch for so much money as was before by them paid, according to an equal rate made by consent of the whole hundred; yet notwithstanding the said tithings are behind in payment: Ordered that Sir Maurice Barkele, Knt., and Robert Hopton, Esq., shall make a rate for the payment of the said money, and shall certify their proceedings therein to Sir Richard Coxe if the money so assessed be not then paid. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 36.]

See note to Order 16, Bridgwater Sess., 1615.

36. Upon a petition of Nicholas Yeomans, a poor man who is a "musitian" dwelling with his wife and children in Hutton, and hath lately travelled to the house of one Marten, and other places not above two or three miles from Hutton, to such persons as have sent for him, and did in short time return home orderly again, for which he is now like to be dealt with according to the Statute of Rogues and Vagabonds, which to avoid he hath left the said parish: The Court conceiving the said Yeomans not to be within the compass of the said Statute hath ordered that the said Yeomans, upon his submission to Mr. Still, be no farther troubled for the said matter by the constables, tithingman, or other officers.

37. On a petition by Robert Warre that he did rent a tenement of one Thomas Attway of Weston in Zoyland, where he hath dwelt this nine yeares, till now the said Attway was ordered in the manor court to remove him by a [certain] day then given under pain of five pounds, whereby he is destitute of a house, and is constrained to lay his goods in a neighbour's barn where they are in danger of stealing: Ordered that the said Warre shall abide in the said house according to his agreement, and the said Attway shall not be distrained for any amercement in the said manor court. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 31.]

38. Whereas there is now a difference between the inhabitants of the tithing of Castle Cary and the parishioners of North Cadbury touching the payment of tithing rate, vizt. for military expenses and suchlike, for which the inhabitants of Castle Cary would have the occupiers of certain grounds in Foscum to join with them, but the inhabitants of North Cadbury do deny in respect it hath always been joined with their tithing: Ordered that they who enjoy the grounds in Foscum aforesaid shall join with Cadbury for military and muster expenses as formerly, and with the tithing of Castle Cary as they have in like manner formerly done until good causes be shown to the contrary. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 40.]

39. Copy of a warrant to the officers of Puriton.
Whereas John Bishop of Puriton refuseth to pay the sum of eight pence weekly towards the support of the base-born child

of Johane Williams on an order by Edward Popham and Robert Cuffe, Esquires : These are therefore in his Majesty's name to will and require you and every of you to whom it shall appertain that upon receipt thereof you bring, or cause to be brought, him the said John Bishop before one of his Majesty's justices, then and there to give sufficient security for the said order, which if he shall then refuse to perform, that then he may be committed by the said Justice to the King's Majesty's Gaol until he perform the same. And hereof fail you not as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

40. On a complaint by Agnes Singer that whereas about two years since she had certain broadcloth stolen out of her tucking mill, part of which was found in the house of Katherine Broadshawe and Johane Broadshawe, for which they were bound to the next gaol delivery, whereupon they are since fled out of the country ; yet they have commenced several actions against the said Agnes for the cloth, which actions she believeth to be maintained by one Mrs. Baynard wife of Mr. Captain Baynard, in respect she hath in behalf of the said Katherine and Johane offered for money to end the said suits: Referred to Robert Hopton and James Bysse, Esquires, to confer with the said Mr. Baynard and his wife touching the same, and to determine it if they can, and if they cannot end it, then to certifie the Court thereof ; and also to call before them one John Davies of Wanstrowe and, if they find cause, to bind him over to the next Sessions for not serving a warrant directed to him as constable there for the apprehending of the said Johane ; and moreover to examine some abuses offered to the said Agnes and others by Richard Phelippes and Wm. Allen for taking of extraordinary fees as bailiffs for the arresting of the said Johane and Katherine. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 41.]

41. On a complaint of Thomas Morris of Hynxstridge that he is overcharged and rated towards the relief of the poor, more than others of his worth and ability : Ordered that he shall not be compelled to pay above four shillings yearly, according to a former order made by some of the Justices upon a reference heretofore made unto them for the same purpose, and that the

Justices now dwelling in the said limits do not grant or make forth any of their warrants to distrain for more than the four shillings by the year. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 54.]

42. On a petition by Robert Burges, late constable of the Hundred of Keynsham, that during the time of his said office he did disburse certain sums of money for the Queen's Majesty's provision at Bristol and Bath, and at her removal from thence according to the command of the Clerk of the green cloth; and that he cannot procure the inhabitants of Keynsham Hundred to make a rate whereby he may be paid: Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., to make the rate and also to bind such as refuse to pay the said rate to the next Sessions, or otherwise to certify their names unto the said Clerk of the green cloth. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 43.]

43. Whereas at the last Sessions [Bridgwater, No. 23] there was an order made that the causes then depending between Thomas Napper of the one part and Thos. Hopkins, Ambrose Bishop, John Trott, Nicholas Hopkins, Thos. Hopkins his brother, John Weaver, Zacary Rice, Nathanael Davye, John Ostler, John Wilkins the elder, and John Priddle the younger, of Tintinhull, should be referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, Knt., to end and determine; and whereas he hath not made any end between the parties: Ordered, on the humble suit of both parties, that Sir Robert Phelippes and Sir Edward Hext, Knts., shall determine and end all the differences, and that the said Thos. Napper and Thos. Hopkins on behalf of the other parties, shall enter into bond each to other now presently before the end of this present Sessions in the sum of one hundred pounds to stand to, abide, and keep the award; the said judgement so to be made by the first of April, to be certified unto this Court.

45. An order made by George Luttrell and John Trevilian, Esquires, at Old Cleeve on 3rd day of January, 1615-6, for the relief of the base-born child of Elizabeth Praunce of Mynehead, of which John Blake of the same parish is the reputed father.

Imprimis. After a full hearing we do order the said John Blake, being a very poor man, is only charged by the

said Elizabeth to be the father and who in our opinion hath been faulty in that kind, to pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Mynehead for the relief of the said child, the payment to begin from the birth of the child until he be bound apprentice; the father to enter into bond with sufficient sureties to the overseers for the due performance of this order, or otherwise he be committed to the common gaol of this county there to remain without bail or mainprise until he perform our said order.

Item. That the said Elizabeth do her uttermost endeavour to maintain the child without charge unto the parish, otherwise she be brought before us to be committed to the house of correction of the county there to be punished and set on work during one whole year; and for her corporal punishment that she be openly whipped at the "foord" within the said parish of Mynehead tomorrow next being Thursday in the afternoon.

Lastly. That this order shall continue until further order be taken in open Sessions.

The above named John Blake hath entered into bond with sufficient sureties. [S.R., xxiv, i, 46.]

George Luttrell.

John Trevelian.

46. An order made by John Frauncis and Humfrey Windham, Esquires, at Wyveliscombe the third of November, [1615], according to the statute made in the eighteenth year of Queen Elizabeth, for the base-born child of Margaret Browne, late of Wellington, of which child it fully appeareth that Thomas Chaplyn of Wellington is the reputed father.

First. The said Thos. Chaplyn shall pay six pence for each week since the birth of the child to the said Margaret within one month from the date of this order.

Secondly. He shall pay eight pence weekly from the above date until the child be able to get her living.

Thirdly. This payment shall be made on Sunday after Divine service in the forenoon to the churchwardens of Wellington at or upon the Communion table in the

church, to be paid unto the said Margaret as long as she shall keep or find the child. And if she shall fortune not to keep it, then to be paid to such as do keep it.

Fourthly. The said Margaret if she fortune not to keep the child, shall pay six pence weekly unto the churchwardens for the child.

Finally. For his and her corporal punishment which by virtue of the said Statute is to be inflicted ; that the said Thomas within one month upon some Sunday after divine service ended in the forenoon in the churchyard at Wellington before the whole congregation, then and there assembled, openly and publicly confess his said fault ; and if he fail, then to answer his contempt at the next General Sessions. And that the said Margaret shall be forthwith openly whipped. [S.R., xxiv, i, 45.]

The parishioners have subscribed that he hath given security to discharge the parish.

John Frauncis.

Humfrey Windham.

47. A similar order to the above, made by the same Justices on the 17th November, 1615, in regard to the base-born child of Christopher Boobyer of Kittesford, and Mary Roe of Langford Budville.

The reputed father is to pay two pence to the date of the said order, and four pence afterwards, which sum is to be paid by the mother if she fortune not to keep the child herself.

Finally. It is ordered for his and her corporal punishment that he and she shall severally upon one or several Sundays within six weeks of this order in the churchyard of the several parishes wherein he and she now dwell before some competent number of the better sort of the said parishes confess and acknowledge their fault and offence, with asking the forgiveness of God for the same, protesting they are sorry for it, and will never therein offend again. And if he or she shall fail therein, that he or she shall be openly whipped. [S.R., xxiv, i, 47.]

John Frauncis.

Humfrey Windham.

48. Order by Sir John Wyndham, Knt., and John Trevelian, Esq., touching the base-born child of Agnes Mullis of Chipstable of which William Sedgborowe is the reputed father.

Upon hearing of this matter of bastardy and the circumstances thereof with the allegations and proofs on each side it appeareth very probable unto us that the said William Sedgborowe is the father of the child; and we do order him henceforth at his own proper costs and charges to keep and maintain the child.

On behalf of the said Agnes we do order her to be forthwith committed to the house of Correction at Taunton, there to remain, be punished, seen, and set on work during one whole year.

This order to remain until further order be taken either at the next General Sessions or by us. [S.R., xxiv, ii, 1.]

John Wyndham.

John Trevelian.

49. List of the jurors within the hundreds of Frome, Winterstoke, Kilmersdon, Keynsham, and Chewe, who did not appear upon summons, and were fined five shillings each.

List of those summoned on the grand jury and did not appear: Elizeus Lacy of Rowberrow, gent.; Percival Pacye of Bleadon, gent.; Richard Gay of Newton St. Lowe, gent.; Richard Walrond of Langridge, gent.; Robert Jones of Corston gent.; Thomas Blanchard of Batheston, gent.; fined forty shillings each.

From the outgoings of the lands of the parishioners of Cannyngham, 13*sh.* 4*d.*, also from St. Mary Magdalene in Taunton, 10*sh.*; Puriton, 10*sh.*; Wollavington, 10*sh.*; Carhampton, 10*sh.*; From the lands of the inhabitants of the hundred of Williton and Freemanors, 10*s.*; from the parishioners of Brushford, 10*sh.*; from the inhabitants of the hundred of Carhampton, 10*sh.*, from the parishioners of the parish of Withiepoole, 10*sh.*; from the parishioners of the parish of Winsford, 10*sh.*

Bartholomew Michell, knt., sheriff.

SESSIONS HELD AT IVELCHESTER the 19th (*seq.*) days of April 14 James (1616), before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Edward Hext, Knts., John Paulett, Thomas Warr, Robert Hopton, Christopher Preston, William Swanton, Thomas Southworth, and Barnaby Lewis, Esquires.

ORDERS.

1. Ordered that the difference between Mr. Will. Rendall, Thomas Slade, Ellis Collins, and Richard Roche of Closeworthe, touching a bond detained by Slade, Collins and Roche from Rendall, contrary to a former order of this Court, be referred to Sir Robert Phelipps for examination and ordering. [*S.R.*, xxv, 89, 90, 91.]

2. Whereas complaint hath been made by Hugh Atwell of Glaston that Thomas Danyell and Robert Danyell of Glaston do keep and harbour in their houses Alice the daughter of the said Thomas and now the wife of the said Hugh, contrary to the good will of him the said Hugh, as well as two kyne promised in part of his wife's portion and divers other goods which were the said Hugh's before his marriage: Referred to Thos. Southworth, Esq., to send for all the parties on both sides, to examine the causes, and to determine the same if he can; but if not, to certify the Court at the next Sessions how he findeth it. [*S.R.*, xxiv, i, 12.]

3. Whereas there was a former reference made at Ivelchester Sessions last concerning the differences between Edmund Dirricke of Ubley and Henry Rodford and others; and though the said Dirricke tendered his bond of 200*li.* according to the said order, the others refused to enter into bond, as appeareth by a certificate from the justices appointed to hear and determine the same: It is now ordered that the same differences shall be referred to Thos. Southworth and Joseph Rattle Esquires to hear

and bind over the parties each to other, and to certify at the next Sessions what they shall do therein, and in whom any default shall be.

[Ilchester order 23 ; 1615 ; S.R., xxiv, i, 13.]

4. On a petition from John Davyes of Litton that whereas he procured a warrant from Sir Henry Mountague and the Justices of Assises for the taking of one Thos. Hippisleye for some abuses by him committed whereby the said Thomas hath been taken, since which time one Henry brother of the said Thomas hath given out speeches that he will kill the said Davyes and run him through with his sword whereby he standeth in fear of his life : Referred to Sir John Horner, Knt., Robert Hopton and Edward Popham, Esquires, to send for the said Henry, and if they shall find cause, to bind him over to the next Assises to answer the premises. [S.R., xxiv, i, 19.]

5. Whereas the order made at the last Wells Sessions (No. 31) touching the settlement of Alice Nevell at Weston near Bath has been defeated by Mr. Kirry, and the Justices to whom it was referred have not met in consideration of their several occasions otherwise : The matter is now referred to Sir Thos. Bridges, Sir John Horner, Knts., Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, and James Bisse, Esquires, or any three of them, near unto adjoining in respect that many of the parishioners that are to give evidence therein are aged men and not able to travel far from home. [S.R., xxiv, i, 16 ; xxv, 97.]

6. Leave for William Molome of Chilton Cantilo, who hath lived there for fifty years or more, and hath obtained permission from Mr. Parham, lord of the manor and the parishioners, to build a house on the waste land, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxiv, i, 25, 30.]

7. Discharge of Stephen Ottes from his apprenticeship with William Dryer of Taunton, weaver, in respect that he hath not been taught his trade but kept at other work.

8. Whereas there have been divers former references both from the Judges of Assise and from this Court unto Sir Maurice

Barkeley, Knt., to examine certain differences between Richard Dibbens and John Petty and others concerning a forcible entry and divers orders made therein: It is now desired that Sir Maurice Barkeley would send for all the parties and examine who hath broken or refused to perform the last order made by the Judges of Assise. [S.R., xxiv, i, 9.]

9. The question of the paternity of the base-born child of Elizabeth Haynes begotten at Evill (Yeovil), but born in Dorset, which is altogether denied by Richard Grobham, is referred to John Powlett and Christopher Preston, Esquires, who are to certify this Court at the next Sessions how they find it. [S.R., xxiv, i, 25a.]

10. Whereas by a former order the inhabitants of Ilminster, in regard of their great losses by fire, are to receive by the hands of John Luffe ten pounds over and above twenty pounds which they have formerly received from the Treasurers of the Wester Division: It is ordered in respect of the within named Erasmus Pirry his losses, that the said sum of ten pounds shall be paid to him direct to his own use. [S.R., xxiv, i, 26, 27, which is the Vicar's letter of commendation.]

Nich. Halswell. Ro. Phelipps. Robert Hopton.
Tho. Warre. Christopher Preston. Tho. Southworth.

11. Upon a petition from the overseers and churchwardens of Walton, licence is granted to John Lyde, if he can obtain leave of the lord of the manor, to build a house there without four acres of land. [S.R., xxiv, i, 29.]

12. Upon a petition from the inhabitants of Chilton Cantilo, William Marsh, inhabitant there for ten years, who hath obtained the leave of William Parham, Esq., lord of the manor, licence is granted to enable him to build a house on the waste without four acres of land. [S.R., xxiv, i, 28, 31, 32.]

13. On a petition of the chieftest of the inhabitants of Chard that there are many tipplers who do all brew their own beer by reason whereof they doubt that wood and other fuel will in short

time become very scarce and dear, and whereas there is such strong drink brewed that drunkenness and much other inconveniences doth thereby ensue so that God is much dishonoured by reason thereof: Ordered that one Richard Munday of Chard shall from henceforth be licenced as a common brewer, and that he only and none else shall brew beer and ale to be sold in the said town, according to the Statute. [*S.R.*, xxiv, i, 34, 35.]

14. Whereas by a letter from Sir William Wade and by a certificate from the parishioners of Holcombe, it appeareth that William Strong hath done good service to her late Majesty in the wars whereby he hath lost the use of one arm, and that he is a very poor man with a wife and five small children: It is ordered that he shall have five marks yearly from the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers, the first half-yearly payment to be made at this present Sessions. [*S.R.*, xxiv, i, 36, 37.]

15. Whereas Christopher Taylor gave his word unto the parishioners of Trent and to Mr. Gerrard of the same place that William Taylor, the reputed father of the base-born child of Margaret Hibdich, that he would either marry the said Margaret or else discharge the parish, yet notwithstanding the said Christopher was bound over to this Sessions: It is referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, Knt., and Alexander Ewens, Esq., to examine and take such course as they shall think fit.

See Taunton Sess. 1616, No. 24.

15a. Bastardy order not completed, see No. 19.

16. With reference to the order made at Wells 1615-6, No. 26, concerning the contributions to be made by certain parishes towards the relief of the poor at Somerton being 360 in number, a petition hath been presented by the overseers of Somerton that the inhabitants of Long Sutton do utterly refuse to pay; and that Mr. Prenie, gent., having lately purchased the parsonage of Somerton of the yearly value of 300*l.* and being indifferently taxed to pay 5*s.* monthly, doth refuse to pay and threateneth the overseers that if they do distrain him he will make them

spend 40*li*. And the inhabitants of Long Sutton have also preferred a petition that they have to relieve daily to the number of 60 poor whereof 16 fell to the parish this year being fatherless children, and 80 more that have neither house nor anything else but their hands to relieve them ; and that the rates to relieve their said poor are almost half as much more as in former times it hath been and yet will not be sufficient : It is now referred to Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext, Knts., to examine and order if they can whether the said parish of Long Sutton shall continue to pay the taxation for the relief of the poor at Somerton or otherwise be freed thereof, and also to order the said Mr. Prenie to pay the monthly rate if they can, but if not to certify the Court at the next Sessions how they find it. [Somerton petition, *S.R.*, xxiv, i, 24 ; Long Sutton petition, *S.R.*, xxiv, i, 23.]

17. Order made by Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq.

Imp. That John Bush of Temple (cloud), the reputed father, do pay ten pence weekly to the overseers of the poor of Cameley for the relief and maintenance of the poor, until the child be able to earn his own living.

Item. That Margery Webb, the mother, shall keep the child herself, if she shall be thought fit, without receiving anything for the same ; and if she refuse to pay six pence weekly. And both parents to put in sufficient assurance to the overseers by bonds with sufficient sureties for the performance of this our order.

Item. The said Margery Webb for her further punishment shall be by the officers of Cameley stript naked from the middle upwards, and whipt until her back be "bloudy" two several times : the first at Pensford the next market day, the second at Cameley the Monday then next following. [*S.R.*, xxiv, i, 33.]

Thomas Bridges.

Fra. Baber.

18. Order taken by the undersigned the 24th of February, 1615(6).

Inpr. John Barnard of Puriton, the reputed father of the child, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Puriton for the relief of the child.

Item. The said J. Barnard shall become bound by obligation with two sufficient sureties in the sum of ten pounds to pay the said weekly tax.

Item. Christian Lambert the mother, shall by her own labours and industry keep, educate, and maintain her said bastard child: and for her offence herein and example of others, she shall be whipped from the girdle upwards, at Puriton aforesaid. [S.R., xxiv, i, 11.]

Nich. Halswell. Frauncis Hele. Edw. Popham.
Edward Rogers. Robert Cuff.

19. Order that James Hooper of Merriott, yeoman, being the reputed father of the bastard man child of Mary Langdon of the same place, shall pay eighteen pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of that place until he do take the child and discharge the parish concerning the same. [S.R., xxiv, i, 10.]

G. Speke.

Jo. Poulett.

20. Order made by the undersigned the 23rd day of January, 1616.

Imp. Thomas Blake, the reputed father, shall pay ten pence weekly to the churchwardens of Clyvedon, this money to be reserved for a stock to be raised for the child.

Item. That Mary Gaynard, the mother of the child, shall keep the child herself without having any allowance out of the said stock, or in any way to be burdensome to the said parish. But if she refuse to keep the said child, then to pay twelve pence weekly.

Item. Both the said parties shall put in sufficient sureties either by bond or otherwise for the performance of this order.

Item. For the punishment of the said Mary Gaynard as soon as she shall be able to travel abroad, she shall be brought by the churchwardens to the constables or tithyngmen of the parish of Clyvedon, and to be openly whipped in some convenient place, and this to be so done as it may be for example of others to avoid the like offence.

Lastly. For the reputed father in that it doth not plainly appear but by the confession of the mother that he is guilty of the same offence, we do leave him to be censured by the ecclesiastical lawes of the Church.

Hugh Smyth. Jos. Rattle. [S.R., xxiv, i. 6.]

21. The return of John Maye and Nathaniel Still, Esquires, to an order of this Court made at Wells the 9th Jan., 1615(6), No. 1 (*q.v.*).

After notice given to the parties to attend before us at Axbridge the 15th day of March, only William Hixe (in the former order Hext), and some with him appeared, but none for the other party, whereupon we examined such proofes as were then present, and do certify :

Firstly. It appeareth by a warrant yet extant, under the hands of John Addams and Joseph Maye, Esquires, dated 19th Sept., 1618 (*sic*), that Thomas Churchowse was accused by Mary Guibes to be the father of two of her base-born children.

Secondly. She about four years since accused one John Byfeeld of Mark to be the father of a third base child, whereupon she was called into the ecclesiastical court for the same, upon which the said Byfeeld fled, and is not yet to be heard of in these parts.

So there hath been no question of these matters till about six months since, when Mary Guibes came to me, Nathanall Still, and accused William Hixe.

Further, Francis, wife of George Guilling of Mark, deposeth that the said Mary Guibes said that she could not find in her heart to charge the said William Hixe any longer to be the father of her children.

John Maye. Nath. Still. [S.R., xxiv, i, 5.]

22. Order made by Sir John Windham, Knt., and John Trevelian, Esq., at Yeard the 8th of Feb., 1615(6).

Thomas Trobridge, the reputed father, is forthwith to put in bond with very good securities to hold the parishioners of Nettlecombe harmless with regard to the base-born child of Mary Frost.

The said Mary Frost shall be forthwith committed to the House of Correction at Taunton for one whole year to be punished, seen, and set on work. [S.R., xxiv, i, 3.]

Thos. Trobridge hath put in very good security John Windham, John Trevelian.

23. Whereas one John Feare, an impotent man, aged near 70 years, was born at Chew, where he lived 30 years and served as a trained soldier; then bought a little tenement at Cameley and lived there six years; after that sold the tenement and returned to Chew, and was there entertained by his brother Walter, working for and with him as his partner at Mendip in leadworks, being maintained by him in diet, lodging, and timber for the said work, and had also the profit of his work until February last, when he was sent by Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., by a warrant to the parish of Cameley from Chew aforesaid, as appeareth by a petition from the inhabitants of Cameley aforesaid: Referred to Robert Hopton, John Maye, Thomas Hughes, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, to examine and determine whether the said John Feare shall be relieved at Cameley or otherwise, and to certify the Court at the next Sessions what their opinions are concerning the same.

SESSIONS HELD AT TAUNTON the third and fourth days of July, 14 James (1616), before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., Thomas Warr, John Frauncis, John Symes, Edward Popham, Francis Baber, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe, Christopher Preston, Joseph Rattle, and William Capell, Esquires.

1. Upon complaint made by divers inhabitants of Martock that Richard Clarke, gent., and Alice Hurde, widow, deny to pay towards the relief of the poor for certain grounds called Hammerkes, and upon pregnant proof that the possessors of these grounds have paid during forty years sithence ; and upon evidence that Sir Edward Phelippes, knt., late Master of the Rolls, had made an order on William Hurde, late possessor of the said grounds, to pay a taxation then raised : Ordered that the said Richard Clarke and Alice Hurde shall forthwith pay all arrerages of the taxation, and all other to be imposed upon them with the rest of the parish of Martock. [S.R., xxv, 86.]

2. Whereas William Phelipps *als.* Tayler of Pitmister hath been bound over to appear at two several Sessions for publishing vile, unseemly, scandalous, and untrue speeches against one Mary Gill of Pitmister ; for which on his open acknowledgement of the same in Court he was ordered to make public confession and to ask forgiveness of the same in the parish church on Sunday next at Morning Prayer ; which if he shall refuse to do or shall do not sincerely but after a scoffing manner, then he shall be bound over to the next Sessions to answer his neglect and contempt.

3. Whereas one Edward Jones of Taunton was disabled of his licence as tippler by Thomas Warr and Thomas Brereton for his misdemeanours therein ; now in respect he hath been unlicensed for three years, and hath tendered very sufficient sureties for keeping the articles of a tippler, he shall again be licensed as long as he shall keep himself and his house in good order, and no longer. [S.R., xxv, 79.]

4. On the petition of Ursula Coxe, widow, that she hath heretofore dwelt in Kingston Seymour in good estate, until by reason of the inundation of the sea in all that country she lost all her estate to the value of 80*l.* and upwards, by reason of which she was enforced to depart to her father at Curry Mallet, where she was born, and there continued with him four years, and three years since his death ; yet now the inhabitants will not permit her to inhabit there, whereby she hath of late been

forced to "lie" in the open streets in great extremity of thunder and lightning : Referred to Sir George Speke, Sir Thos. Phelipps, Knts., and Christopher Preston, Esq., to order and appoint where the said Ursula Coxe shall be settled and provided for. [S.R., xxv, 71.]

5. Whereas before this time it appeared unto us by letters from Coronell Cycell, late general in the warres in the Low Countries, that Francis Northover, gent., was prest into the said wars, and did good service there for many years, in which he received a "maihme." We do therefore grant unto him the annuity or yearly pension of ten pounds, to be paid quarterly by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers.

Francis Popham, Nich. Halswell, Robt. Phelipps, Tho. Phelippes, Edw. Hext, Francis Heale, Edward Popham, Joseph Rattle. [S.R., xxv, 70.]

Colonel Sir Edward Cecil, Viscount Wimbledon, grandson of Burghley, "achieved a high reputation for valour and conduct." [D.N.B., ix. 395.]

6. Whereas by a petition preferred to this Court by the inhabitants of Edington at the Ilchester Sessions 13 James (1615, No. 19), the question of the placing of three poor children was referred to certain justices, who made an order that they should be transferred to Badgworth; and whereas at the last Bridgwater Sessions (1615, No. 13), on good causes shown by the inhabitants of Badgworth, it was ordered that the said three children should be sent back to Edington, unless the inhabitants should show good cause to the contrary at or before the next Sessions, which from want of notice (as they allege) they did not do; but as they have moved the Court at the present Sessions, and both parties have been heard, the original order is now to be carried out; but for that the mother with the said children went into "Walls" from Badgworth and there continued about one year, and then returned back again and were received at Edington; whether the mother and children so returned from "Walles" were as vagrant persons or as poor people is not by any direct proofs made known unto the Court: Ordered that the inhabitants of Badgworth shall at the next Sessions make it

appear how the said mother and children were taken when they came to Edington, and if they then fail therein that the original order shall stand irrevocable without altering.

This was confirmed at Bridgwater, next Sessions, No. 6.

7. Walter Muggleworth is at this Sessions "idable" to be a Tipler, and his licence and articles taken from him. [S.R., xxv, 57a.]

8. It is ordered that Sir Hugh Smyth shall send for John Goslett and suppress his Alehouse. [S.R., xxiv, i, 8.]

9. On a petition from William Lonye that Robert Vyninge, in consideration of his great poverty and age, about three years sithence bestowed a small plot of ground upon him for three lives to enable him to build a cottage thereon, which he hath done; but of late the said Vyninge hath been admonished to avoid the said Lonye from his cottage unless he can add four acres of land thereunto, which on account of his poverty he cannot do: Ordered and desired that Barnaby Lewis and William Swanton, Esquires, will take order therein according to equity and conscience. [S.R., xxv, 3.]

10. Whereas John Aishe hath been bound to the peace at the instance of Robert Merefield and to appear at this Sessions; and for that it now appeareth that there are many differences depending between the said parties: They are referred unto John Powlett and Christopher Preston, Esquires, to examine and to certify at the next Sessions how they find it.

11. Ordered that William Ingham shall repair unto Francis Baber, Esq., within a fortnight of this Sessions to perform an order made for the discharge of Compton Dando from the keeping of a base-born child, whereof Thomas Ingham his son is the reputed father, and conveyed away by William Ingham; and to bring a certificate thereof from the said Mr. Baber, and then to be discharged of his recognizance.

12. Whereas Robert Pirry, William Martin and Robert Verier of Killsdon (*rectius* Lillsdon) within the Hundred

of North Curry were by the Constables of the same Hundred appointed on Monday night last to watch according to the laws, and whereas the said watchmen were about eleven of the clock in the same night disturbed and much abused by Henry Fivian, Thomas Lumbard, John Musgrove, and William Gibbs in most contemptuous and rude manner, as by a petition more plainly appeareth. Ordered that examination thereof shall be referred to the two next Justices thereunto adjoining, who may bind over the said parties to the next Sessions if they find cause, or otherwise determine the same. [S.R., xxv. 65.]

13. Upon a petition from the inhabitants of Salford (Saltford), that they have been for a long time taxed to a yearly payment of five shillings to St. Thomas in Pensford in relief of their poor, and that they are much more burdened with poor people than they were formerly, and less able to pay the yearly taxation than the inhabitants of other parishes near adjoining not so burdened. Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges and Francis Baber, Esq., who shall call before them the inhabitants of Salford, and shall free them of the said taxation, imposing it upon other parishes, if they shall think fit. [S.R., xxv, 55.]

14. Whereas Gyles Capell of Mudford hath by order paid eight pence weekly for the support of the base-born child of Mary Browne, whereof his son Thomas is the reputed father ; now he is discharged from the said order, in respect that he doth henceforth keep the child himself, and give sufficient security unto the parishioners of Tintinhull, where the child was born, for the discharge of the said parish ; and it is further ordered that the said George (*sic*) Browne shall not detain the said child any longer but deliver him to the said Gyles Capell.

15. Whereas question hath been made and trouble hath grown unto the inhabitants of Radington concerning the settling of Symon Burrage, a tailor, lately unlawfully received and sustained by Humfry Brownsford, miller, upon marriage had with Mary Sealy, his daughter-in-law of the same parish, whether the Mary ought to go with her husband. Upon certificate of Sir John Wyndham, Knt., and John Trevelyan, Esq., it is ordered

that the tithyngman of Radington shall convey the said Symon Burrage and Mary his wife to the parish of Upton and deliver them over to the churchwardens and overseers there, to be received, settled and set on work as poor people of the said parish, being the place where the said Symon had made his last abode for the most part of three years before the making of this order. [S.R., xxv, 32.]

16. Certificate upon a former order for the four pounds in controversy between Carhampton and the four western tithyngs.

According to an order made at Bridgwater 1615 (No. 11, citing Taunton Sessions 1615, No. 14), we the undersigned on Thursday, 23rd May, called before us at Wellington the officers, constables, and inhabitants of Milverton and the four western tithings, when it appeared by the examination of many ancient constables and other substantial inhabitants that about 28 years past when the Justices first compounded for this whole county with the officers of the Greencloth of the late Queen, it was ordered that Milverton and the four tithings should pay the sum of three oxen and three sheep, and the hundreds of Whitley, Petherton, Cannington, Andersfield, Huntspill and Puriton, should pay four pounds, in regard of the quantity of feeding and grazing grounds, towards the relief of Milverton (&c.). We farther received a particular of every parish showing the number of acres of grazing and feeding grounds, and found them to be very small; and it appeared that the said ancient rate was paid without any contradiction the space of 25 years. We further according to the order met at Dunster and Orchard, and in our view did conceive that there was a good quantity of grazing and feeding grounds; and the gentlemen of Carhampton did not meet according to the order. All which we do certify, conceiving that the four pounds in question should continue to be paid as in ancient times.

Fra. Baber. Tho. Brereton.

17. Order in accordance with the foregoing, unless the Justices of the other side do procure a meeting before Taunton Sessions next and give notice thereof to Sir Francis Popham, or at the said Sessions show very sufficient cause to the contrary, and so

make a final end and settle it as it was twenty-five years before together.

18. Order that Robert Hixe of Newton St. Loe, who, having been chosen constable of the Hundred of Wellow at the last Law-day court, doth refuse to serve; shall upon sight hereof come to the next court of the said Hundred and there be sworn for the execution of his office; or otherwise be bound to the next Assizes.

19. Whereas the inhabitants of the Hundred of Wellow complain that they are surcharged with the furnishing of twenty men for the trained company over and above their proportion: Ordered and desired that Sir Hugh Smyth and Sir Thomas Bridges, Knts., Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, John Maye, Francis Baber, and James Bysse, Esquires, or any four of them, shall examine the matter, and compose and end it, or otherwise to certify their opinions to the next Sessions; and that all the said Justices have several notice of this order for the better appointing of them.

20. Ordered that Humfry Windham and John Francis, Esquires, do make an order for the settling of the base-born child of Dorothy Winter, whereof Walter Wellarke of Laurence Lydeard is the reputed father.

21. Whereas Thomas Macye of Winsham hath presented a petition subscribed by the most part of the parishioners and borderers of Winsham showing that the said Macye, his wife and five children were all born and bred there, and ever behaved themselves very well, and by hard labour maintained themselves; and now he is fallen lame and impotent; he now asketh licence to build a cottage, already begun, on the waste, having obtained leave of Richard Meredith, Dean of Wells, lord of the manor: Ordered that he be licensed to erect the said cottage. And whereas it was alleged that one John Bynneye of Winsham openly opposeth himself and pulleth down the said building so set up: It is also ordered that if he shall molest any more the said Macye, he is to be bound over to the next Sessions to answer his contempt. [S.R., xxv, 82, 83.]

22. Upon complaint made that Nicholas Warren of Buckland (St. Mary) hath newly erected a cottage upon the forest side, which is suspected to be much prejudicial unto his Majesty's game in the said forest of Nerocke by harbouring and receiving disorderly and idle fellows. And for that the said Nicholas allegeth that it is an ancient dwelling house and no new erected cottage : Ordered that Sir George Speke, Knt., and Christopher Preston, Esq., shall view the said cottage and call such parties as they shall think fit before them ; and if they find it to be a new erected cottage contrary to the statute, that then according to the law they give order for pulling down the said cottage ; and if they find the said Warren obstinate, to bind him over to the next Sessions.

23. Touching the settling of one John Feare (Ilchester 1616, No. 23), Robert Hopton and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, on the 27th May held an examination where those of Cameley proved very sufficiently by several proofs whereby they were satisfied both in law and conscience that the said Feare ought to be returned and settled at Chew as they hereby certify ; yet now on the allegation of Francis Baber, Esq., that neither Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt., nor himself were at the examination as was intended by reason of their absence from home, and chiefly that it is pretended that those of Chew have some other effectual proofs ; and upon Mr. Baber's promise that the matter shall be finally ended as it shall be ordered at the next General Sessions or before by the Justices named below, and that they of Chew shall repay to the overseers of Cameley sixpence per every week henceforth if the matter shall be so decided : Ordered that Sir Thomas Bridges, Robert Hopton, Thomas Southworth, or any two of them, shall meet at Chewton shortly after the next Assizes, settle the said Feare, and certify to the next Sessions their doing or opinions in the cause.

24. Order made on the 30th of June, 1616. That Margaret Hebdich of Trent shall continually breed up, foster, and keep her base-born child until it can be placed to service. That William Taylor, woollen weaver, of Weeke, co. Dorset, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly to the overseers of

Trent every Sunday after Morning Prayer. That if the said Margaret will not keep her child, then she shall also pay the sum of eight pence weekly. That both parties shall give sufficient security to the overseers for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxv, 46.]

Ro. Phelipps.

Alex. Ewens.

See Ilchester Sess. 1616, No. 15.

25. Whereas John Gregory and Thomas Gregory have already been bound over unto two sessions for hunting and killing of deer in the Lady Montgomery her park, and that there was no prosecution against them at this present Sessions : It is referred unto Sir John Horner, Knt., and Robert Hopton, Esq., to send for the said parties, examine the said cause, to take such course therein as they shall think requisite, and to bind them over to the next Sessions if they shall think requisite.

26. Order made on the 27th of April, 1616. That Clement Vax of Merriott, husbandman, the reputed father of the base-born child of Anne Gilbert of the same place, shall pay four pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens for the relief of the said child. That the mother shall receive the said four pence as long as she do keep it; but if she refuse to keep it, then to pay four pence weekly. That the said Clement shall enter into bond for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxv, 44.]

G. Speke.

Jo. Powlett.

27. Order made on the 8th of June, 1616. That Roger Hill of Estchinnock, yeoman, the reputed father of the base man child of Sara Bryant of Dolish, shall pay six pence weekly from the birth of the said child to the overseers of Dolish aforesaid, and shall enter into bond with sufficient securities for the due payment thereof; that the said Sara Bryant shall keep the child and receive six pence weekly. Lastly that the said Sara Bryant shall be openly whipped this present day in the market at Ilminster. [S.R., xxv, 76, 85.]

G. Speke.

Jo. Poulett.

28. Whereas the overseers of Camely on the 16th of May last convented the overseers of Midsomer Norton and Francis Mandrell of Camely before Francis Baber, Esq., concerning the removing of one John Mosley, long and of late time Vicar of Midsomer Norton, an aged, blind, impotent man, whom Fran. Mandrell hath received and doth retain in his house at Cameley; and that Mr. Baber then made an order either that Mr. Mandrell should deliver the said Mosley to the overseers of Midsomer N. or else give good security to the overseers of Camely to save the said parish harmless; and whereas Mandrell hath not performed the said order, but allegeth that he hath tendered sufficient security which was not accepted. Ordered that he forthwith give sufficient securities in such sum as Fran. Baber, Esq., and Barnaby Lewis, Esq. (if he be of that division), who shall certify at the next Sessions their doings or opinions therein, that further order may be taken if need be.

John Mosley was Vicar of M. N. 1578-1615.

29. Order that if Richard Lewis of Dundry, Clerk, shall give sufficient security to the churchwardens of Hutton, for the discharge of the base-born child of his daughter Joane, for which John Coxo the younger was ordered to pay eight pence weekly to the overseers of Hutton aforesaid; that then the sum of eight pence shall be paid to him. [S.R., xxv, 4.]

30. Whereas there was a former reference from the Ilchester Sessions, 1615 (No. 23), concerning the differences between Edmund Dirricke of Ubley, and Henry Rodford with others, to Francis James, Doctor of the law, deceased, Thos. Southworth and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, to hear and determine the same; and whereas at an appointed time and place both parties appeared, but Rodford with others refused to enter into bond according to the said order, as appeareth by a certificate of the said Justices: It is however thought fit to refer the said differences again to Thos. Southworth and Joseph Rattles, Esquires, to hear and order the same, to bind over the parties each to other in sufficient obligations, and to certify at the next Sessions what they shall do therein, and in whom any default shall be.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT BRIDGEWATER the 17th, 18th, and 19th days of September, 14 James (1616), before Sir Robert Phelippes, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., Edward Rogers, Thomas Warre, George Lutterell, Edward Popham, Nathanael Still, James Bisse, Christopher Preston, Thomas Brereton, and Robert Cuffe, Esquires.

1. Ordered that the attachment made against Richard North of Ilmister for using the trade of a baker shall not be made until Ivelchester next.

2. Order that the examination of the abuses and wrongs done unto Mrs. Crooch by one Richard Cottle be referred to Edward Popham, Esq., who shall bind over the said Cottle to the next Sessions if he see cause.

3. Whereas there is a difference between the inhabitants of Glaston and the parishioners of Wilton touching the settling of John Coxe, son of Jerome Coxe, dec.: After hearing and examining the same, ordered that the said John Coxe shall be settled at Glaston, until the inhabitants do show cause to the contrary in open court. [S.R., xxv, 19, 35.]

4. Whereas Grace Ingram, the mother of a base-born child, was by Sir John Wyndham, Knt., and John Trevilian, Esq., committed to the House of Correction in Taunton, and there to be punished and set on work during the space of one year: It is now ordered that the constables or tithyngman where the said Grace dwelleth shall see her punished according to the effect of the order.

5. Licence is granted to Robert Musgrove of West Monkton to erect two houses under one roof upon parcel of the waste of Richard Warre, Esq., to the use of the poor people of the said parish, vizt., to John Jeane and his wife and one Johane Warman during their lives. [S.R., xxv, 16, 28.]

6. Whereas some difficulty hath arisen in regard to the levying of 50*li*. paid yearly unto Captain Samuel Norton, Esq., for his service of Muster-master within this county; and whereas the Lord Lieutenant of this County is pleased to procure sufficient warrant for the levying which cannot instantly be done: Ordered that the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers shall for this time only disburse 50*li*. now due to the said Capt. Norton to be delivered again when the warrant has been obtained. [*S.R.*, xxv, 26, 56.]

7. Whereas one John Palmer hath been sent from Tytherly in Hampshire to Barkely in this County, where he was born: It is now ordered that the said Palmer shall be sent back again to Tytherley, in regard he was there last set on work and settled as a covenant servant, when he became impotent. [*S.R.*, xxv, 29.]

8. Whereas upon the differences between the inhabitants of Martock and Mr. Richard Clark of Long Sutton, an order was made (Taunton Sess. 1616, No. 1): It is now again ordered upon full hearing thereof that the said Clark and Alice Hurd his mother-in-law do pay according to that order within a fortnight after this Sessions, or upon refusal to be bound to the good behaviour by Sir Robert Phelipps or Sir Edward Hext, Knts. [*S.R.*, xxv, 52.]

9. With reference to the differences between Long Sutton and Somerton touching the relief of the poor, and to Mr. Prenie's refusal to pay his proportion (Wells Sess. 1615-6, No. 26; Ilchester Sess. 1616, No. 16): Ordered by the Court that Long Sutton and Mr. Prenie do pay all levies and arrerages until next Ilchester Sessions.

10. Ordered that Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext shall call before them Thomas Rugge and his wife, and to order them and set them at quiet, and if they find either of them unreasonable, to bind the refuser over to the next Sessions.

11. After a hearing anew of the cause between the parishioners of Badgworth and Edington: Ordered that the

former order (Taunton 1616, No. 6) stand and be in force final and irrevocable.

12. Whereas Roger Baker of Ile-Abbotts hath lost by fire 40*li.*, and is but a poor man with a wife and six poor children : Ordered by the Court that he do receive five pounds from the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the western division. [S.R., xxv, 36.]

Nich. Halswell, Rob. Phelipps, Ed. Hext, Fr. Heale, Thos. Warre, Nath. Still.

13. Ordered that all the differences between Edward Riche and John Lucas be referred to the hearing of John Colles, Esq., and that he shall concord all matters between them if he can.

14. At this Sessions Robert Cuffe, Esq., is elected Treasurer for the maimed soldiers for this year to come.

15. Whereas the order made at the last Taunton Sessions (No. 15), concerning the settling of Symon Burrage and Mary his wife, at Upton, has not yet been carried out, the tithyngman of Raddington is now ordered to do so, and if the churchwardens and overseers of Upton do not at the next Sessions show good cause to the contrary, then the said Simon and his wife to remain there perpetually. [S.R., xxvii, i, 47.]

16. Referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., and Edward Rogers, Esq., to order and appoint whether or no John Cavell with his wife and children shall be sent to Doddington, where he formerly lived for three years, and that his dwelling in the meantime shall not be prejudicial to the parishioners of Spaxton ; and farther that the order which they shall make shall be certified at the next Taunton Sessions.

17. Referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, Knt., to end and determine all differences whatsoever now depending between Richard Alvyn of Drayton and Gartrude Hill. [S.R., xxv, 24.]

18. Upon a certificate from the parishioners of North Petherton licence is granted to John Addams to build a cottage there on some part of the waste, upon leave being obtained from Edward Popham, Esq., though four acres of land be not laid thereunto. [S.R., xxv, 25.]

19. Ordered that Thomas Warre and Thomas Brereton, Esquires, shall take course for the placing and settling of John Banell with his wife and children in Cotherstone, for that he was born and always dwelt there within the said parish. [S.R., xxv, 21.]

20. Upon good cause shown, it is ordered that Hugh Kerle and his wife shall be sent from Pawlett where they now remain to Othry where he was born, there to be settled and provided for continually, except the parishioners there do show cause to the contrary at the next Sessions.

21. The opinion of the Court for the settling of poor people. The opinion of the Court is that wheresoever any man with his wife and children shall be lawfully settled and continue by the space of a year, and the husband then die, the wife and children shall be there settled continually afterwards.

And when a man hath been in covenant or settled a year from the place of his birth, and if there he hath any mishap and then become maimed he shall then be relieved, and not sent to the place of his birth.

22. Whereas the inhabitants of Montague have petitioned that they have received great losses by fire which Sir Robert Phelippes, Knt., dwelling in the same town doth value at seven hundred pounds; the Court desireth the Justices of Peace in their several divisions will treat with the inhabitants in their divisions, persuading them to bestow their willing benevolence towards the relief of the said inhabitants; and to cause to be returned to the next General Sessions such benevolence to be collected or to certify their doing therein. [S.R., xxv, 22, schedule of names and amounts.]

23. On a petition from William Gunnell that his son Robert was a year sithence bound apprentice for seven years to Thomas Coombes of Trucketts hill in Nunney, a musician ; but that the said Coombes being in debt hath left this County and gone into service, so that Robert Gunnell is left upon the charge of his father who is a poore Almes man in the Almes house of Wells : Ordered that the said Robert be discharged of his apprenticeship and be free to enter the service of another person. [S.R., xxv, 30, 31.]

24. Whereas Francis Maundrell hath not fulfilled the order made upon him at the last Taunton Sessions (1616, No. 28) : Ordered that within ten days of this order being shown to him, he shall convey John Mosley late Vicar of Midsomer Norton to that place, to be by the overseers of the poor settled and relieved ; and that the constables of the Hundred of Chewton shall if need be assist the said Maundrell. [S.R., xxv, 37.]

25. Touching the settling of John Feare (Ilchester 1616, No. 23 ; Taunton 1616, No. 23), whereas Sir Thomas Bridges could not be at leisure to join in the examination thereof with Robert Hopton and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, unto whom it was referred ; now ordered that John Maye, Esq., may if he please join himself with the two others, and that they meet at Chewton to examine the cause, and to certify to the next Court their doing or opinions in the cause. [S.R., xxv, 37.]

26. Ordered that the Composition shall hold, that Justices of Peace within this county shall take such course for the levying thereof in their several divisions as to them shall seem requisite and fit.

27. Whereas Thomas Matchfield *alias* Harper of Mark was bound over to this present Sessions for divers misdemeanours and abuses as shown in certain articles : Ordered that Joseph Rattle, Esq., shall examine the truth of the said articles and shall make certificate thereof unto the next Sessions.

28. Order made at Cannington the 20th of February, 1615-6, by the undersigned :—

Inprimis. That William Jennings of Trull, husbandman, the reputed father of Joane Lacy the base child of Joane Lacy of Puriton, shall pay eight pence weekly the churchwardens and overseers of Puriton, from the birth of the said child until further order be taken.

Item. That the said Jennings shall forthwith put in sufficient security as well for the payment of the said weekly charge as for the discharge of the said parish.

Lastly. That the said Joane Lacy shall her own self keep the said child, and for the offence shall suffer punishment of whipping, and that the constables or tithyngman of Puriton shall do or cause the same to be done. [S.R., xxv, 39.]

Nich. Halswell, Francis Hele, Edward Rogers.

29. Order made at Old Clive the 30th of May, 1616, by the undersigned.

Inprimis. Whereas Richard Perry late of Tyverton, fuller, is the reputed father of the base-born child of Grace Ingram of Dulverton, he is to pay from the birth of the child to this present date four pence weekly ; from this present date for one whole year twelve pence weekly ; and thenceforth ninepence weekly until the said child shall be bound out as apprentice or otherwise provided for ; the money to be received by the churchwardens and overseers of Dulverton, and the said Perry to be bound with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Item. That the said Grace Ingram be brought before us by the constable of Dulverton to be committed to the House of Correction at Taunton to be punished and set on work for one whole year ; and afterwards pay the weekly sum of three pence for the better relief of the said child.

John Wyndham.

John Trevilian.

30. Whereas Daniell Diggenson hath been often bound over unto the Sessions for many misdemeanours which are supposed to be grounded upon certain differences between him and Gregory Grave and one Fawsit and Richard Parsons, and the said Diggenson being now again convented by the other parties, they did all desire that the said differences might be referred to Robert Cuffe and Robert Brereton, Esquires, to end if they could: The Court therefore desireth them to examine the same accordingly, and the said misdemeanours, and to certify this Court at the next General Sessions how they find it.

31. The cause now depending between the parishioners of Long Sutton and Somerton (No. 9 of this Sessions) is adjourned to the next Ilchester Sessions; the parishioners of Long Sutton in the meantime to pay the arrerages and the rate previously made.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS the 14th, 15th, and 16th days of January, 14 James (1616-7) before Sir Robert Phelippes, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir John Horner, Sir Francis Heale, and Sir Edward Rodney, Knights, Thomas Warre, John Maye, Edward Popham, Francis Baber, James Bysse, William Capell, William Swanton, Thomas Symcox, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires.

1. Whereas the Keeper of the House of Correction at Taunton hath a yearly allowance of 20 marks for the setting of poor people on work, and that there is no other stock or allowance: Ordered that he be paid 20*li*. yearly for this purpose by the Treasurer for the Hospitals of the western division; and that a similar sum be paid to the keeper of the House of Correction at Ivelchester.

2. Upon petition by the parishioners of Croscombe, Agnes Stone and her base-born child is to be sent to Shepton Mallett, to be there received and maintained.

3. Upon petition by John Hedges of Willmington that he hath by a fire lost 40*li.*: Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., to examine the loss and certify the same at the next Sessions, when the Court will order what shall be allowed him.

4. Upon good cause shown: Ordered that William Whitehead and his wife shall continue settled at Beckington in any house for their money; and that the lord of the manor or overseers molesting or laying any charge on them shall be bound over to answer their contempt. And that such as have affronted Sir James Ley herein be bound to their good behaviour. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 28.]

5. Upon a certificate subscribed by some of the inhabitants of West Pennard: Ordered that Thomas Redwood, who hath dwelt there for seven years and now dwelleth in the house of Thomasine West, widow, for which she hath been by some complained or presented, shall continue in the same house, or in any other there that he can rent for his money.

6. Whereas there is a difference between some of the parishioners of Weston in Zoyland and Andrew Illary, who hath always for the most part of his life time dwelt there, and now renteth a house, which is disliked by some for that he ought not to be settled there: Referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., and Edmund Rogers, Esq., to examine and order where the said Illary shall live, and to certify their opinions touching the same at the next Sessions.

7. Whereas the parishioners of Westbury hath petitioned that they may not be charged with John Keene and his family in respect they have not been dwelling in the parish: Referred to Sir John Horner, Sir Edward Rodney, Knts., John Maye, Robert Hopton, and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, or any three of them, to examine and order where the said Keene shall be placed, or otherwise to certify their doing and opinion to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 6.]

8. On a complaint from the churchwardens and overseers of Congersbury that John Smythes, gent, of Wrington, hath placed in certain mills in Congersbury a poor old man and his wife, who they fear will become chargeable and therefore desire that he will give security or else remove them: Referred to Sir Edward Rodney, Knt., John Maye and Will. Capell, Esq., to examine and take such course as shall seem expedient. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 32.]

9. Whereas William Pitman, one of the overseers of Castle Cary, was bound by Mr. Ewens to this Sessions for not performing of his office and for other misdemeanours, and thinking that Mr. Ewens was not in the Commission of the Peace did not appear: Referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, Knt., Robert Hopton and William Swanton, Esquires, or any two of them, to examine and take such course as shall seem requisite.

10. Ordered that if it shall appear that John Seagar hath sold his pension which he had allowed him as a maimed soldier, that he shall be utterly put by and disallowed to have any pension; but if otherwise then at the next Sessions to be ordered what he shall have.

11. Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., Robert Hopton, Edward Popham and James Bisse, Esquires, to examine the difference between Bath and Shepton Mallett touching the placing of Elizabeth Whittell and her child, and to take such speedy cause for present settling as shall seem requisite and just.

12. Upon good cause now shown, it is ordered that Andrew Illary shall continue at Weston until further order shall be taken.

13. Referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Knts., Edward Rogers and Robert Cuffe, Esquires, to inquire again into the difference between Othery and Pawlett touching the placing of Hugh Kerle and his wife; and to see whether the said Kearle (*sic*) became as a vagrant after he was put from

Pawlett or whether by the means of the parishioners there he became as a rogue or vagrant : and to order where they shall be settled.

14. Whereas the Court is informed that Henry Weadon of Killmington is a very poor man with wife and family, without a house which he cannot afford to buy and for want thereof is like to "lye" in the open street, unless he may take some part of a house as under tenant, which Mr. Hargell lord of the manor will not give way thereunto : Ordered that Mr. Hargell shall suffer the said Weadon to take a house there for his money without molestation. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 10.]

15. Ordered that the apprenticeship of Thomas Hill to Joseph Bithesea of Shepton Mallett, clothier, be cancelled though the term of seven years is not yet expired.

Edw. Rodney.

Robt. Hopton

Jo. Maye.

16. The cause of bastardy now in difference between Charleton Horethorne and Yarlinton, is referred to Robert Hopton and William Swanton, Esquires, to take such course therein as they shall think fit.

17. A final order touching the settling of John Feare in Chew.

As it appeareth by two certificates made by Robert Hopton and Thomas Southworth, Esquires, wherein they stand satisfied that by law and conscience the said Feare ought to be settled in Chew ; as also upon the examination of the said Feare upon his oath confessing he had been maintained in Chew about 19 years (*see* Ilch., 1616, No. 23) ; also upon the production of the records in the Ecclesiastical Court under the Register, Mr. Edward Lewishe his hand, the first dated 1603 importing the presentment by the churchwardens of Chew of the said Feare for not receiving the Communion, the second in 1615 by the churchwardens of the said Feare for not coming to the church : The Court now orders the said John Feare to be removed from Cameley to Chew to be there relieved and maintained in charitable manner : Unless the said Robert Hopton and Thos.

Southworth, Esquires, shall before the next Sessions receive such proofs from the parish of Chew as shall make them alter their opinions. Lastly the parishioners of Chew shall pay to Cameley the six pence a week which they have paid to the said Feare since the second of June last according to the order made at Taunton Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 22.]

18. On the petition of Phillipp Humfries that he hath a long time lived in the parish of Dunhead [Downhead] in a very poor cottage, which is now ruinated and fallen in decay, and he cannot replace and build it up again on account of his poverty: Desired that James Bysse, Esq., will call the parishioners before him to persuade them to procure a place for the said Humfries to dwell, and to certify at the next Sessions what he hath done therein.

19. Memorandum that this present day in open Sessions all matters in difference between Robert Bisgood and Robert Hullicke of Linge, by their mutual assent and *assumpsit* in an 100*li*. each to other, are referred to the award of Mr. Henry Chicke of West Newton and Thomas Bennett of Linge.

20. Upon the petition of Richard Thorne, subscribed by the inhabitants of Sparkford, he is licensed to build a house there without four acres of land, seeing he hath obtained licence for the same of the Lady Rogers, landlady of the said manor. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 4.]

21. The two orders made at Taunton (No. 15) and Bridgewater Sessions last (No. 15), concerning the removal of Symon Barrage with his wife and child, and after full hearing of both parties in open court, are again ordered and finally decreed. And if the churchwardens and overseers of Upton shall refuse to settle them, then the next Justices of the Peace in the same limit shall bind them over to the next Sessions to answer their contempt herein. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 9.]

22. Alehouses. Ordered that the Justices of Peace shall between this and the next Assises advise and see what and how

many alehouses in their several limits are disorderly and fit to be suppressed, and thereupon to suppress them. And such as they themselves cannot lawfully suppress, to acquaint the Judges thereof at the same Assises, and [to procure] order and warrant from them to suppress the same.

23. Upon a petition from the inhabitants of Stanton Drew that they are at present charged with a yearly payment of eight shillings for the relief of the poor of Pensford; and that they are now charged with many far more great taxes and payments for the relief of their own poor people (who are much increased); and therefore desire to be relieved of the said payment: Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., to examine the said cause, and to take such course therein as they shall think fit. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 18.]

24. Whereas there was a reference from the Lords of the Privy Council unto the Justices of Peace, thereby willing and requiring them speedily to examine certain misdemeanours contained in an information preferred unto them by George Woolridge against Emanuell Sandis, Gent.; whereupon the said Mr. Sandis was bound over to this Sessions and did appear, and the said Woolridge was willed to attend with his witnesses and made default therein: Ordered that Sir Thomas Phelipps, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir George Speke, Sir Edward Hext, Knts., and Christopher Preston, Esq., or any three of them, shall call the parties before them, examine the said misdemeanours, and certify at the next Sessions how they find it.

25. On a certificate subscribed by many of the inhabitants of the parish of Baltonsborough, who are lords of the manor, that they have with one assent given licence to William Sheppard, a poor man, to build a house upon some parcel of the waste: Ordered that the said Sheppard may erect the house which he hath already begun, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 3.]

26. On complaint from the overseers and churchwardens of Clutton that John Maggs the elder hath conveyed away John

Maggs the younger, his son, who is the reputed father of a bastard child, whereby the said child is like to be chargeable : Desired that Francis Baber, Esq. will bind over the elder Maggs unto the next Sessions, unless in the meantime he bring in his son to give security to the parish for the said child. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 1.]

27. Upon complaint by the parishioners of Kingston Seamoor that there are 2,700 acres of ground therein, whereof 2,000 acres are enjoyed by strangers which dwell far distant ; by means whereof when any payment is to be made for the King's Majesty, it is more worth to gather the same than the money cometh unto. And further that there are many poor people there (by reason it lyeth against the sea, it being thereby subject to drowning) that are not of ability to discharge such payments and perform such service as heretofore : Ordered that all such as take to farm and hold any grounds therein shall answer the services and pay the duties due, or otherwise be bound over to the next Sessions. And it is referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt. and Francis Baber, Esq. to examine the same and to set down an order which they shall certify to the Court at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 11.]

28. Referred to Sir Francis Heale, Knt. and John Frauncis, Esq., to examine what losses [] of Lideard hath sustained by fire, who are to certify at the next Sessions, when the Court will appoint what he shall be allowed towards the said losses.

29. Referred to Sir Maurice Barkely, Sir John Horner, Knts., Robert Hopton and William Swanton, Esquires, or any three of them, to see what pension or allowance William Barter of Henstridge is worthy to have, and to certify their opinions at the next Sessions.

30. Ordered that Christian Lynton shall be now openly whipped, for that she hath a bastard, and hath often threatened to run away and leave it to the parish where she dwelleth. [S.R., xxv, 93.]

31. An order made by Sir Thos. Bridges, Knt. and Frauncis Baber, Esq. Richard Sage of Stanton Drew, the reputed father of the child, is to pay ten pence weekly from the birth of the child until he can earn his own living.

Elizabeth Webb of Stanton Drew, the mother, is to keep the said child without receiving anything for the same; and if she refuse, to pay six pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens.

Both parties to give assurance to the overseers by bond of sufficient securities for the discharge of the said parish.

The said Elizabeth Webb is to be whipt firstly at Pensford on the next market day after the publication of this order, and at Stanton Drew on the Monday next following. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 42.]

32. An order made by John Maye and Joseph Rattle, Esquires, dated 27th November, 1615.

John Willis of Rodney Stoke, husbandman, the reputed father of the child, is to pay six pence weekly from the birth of the said child until it can be put out. This money to remain for a stock for the placing of the said child.

Joane Jeninges of Rodney Stoke, the mother, shall keep the child without having any allowance. And on her refusal, to pay twelve pence weekly.

Both parties to enter into bond or otherwise to the best liking of the churchwardens and overseers for the performance of this order.

The said Joane Jenings as soon as she shall be able to travel abroad, shall be brought to the next market town and openly whipped through the said town on the market day. And this is to be done as that it may be for the example of others to avoid the like offence. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 45.]

33. An order made by Sir Frauncis Popham, Knt., and Humfry Windham, Esq., at Wiveliscombe, the 7th August [1616].

Hugh Nott of Ashbrittle, the reputed father of the child, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens, the said

money to be paid after divine service ended in the morning at or upon the Communion Table.

Johane Rockwell, of Ashbrittle, the mother, shall receive the said six pence so long as she shall keep the child ; and if she shall fortune not to keep it, then the money to be paid to those who do keep it. And the said Johane shall pay weekly six pence during that time.

The said Johane for her corporal punishment shall be well whipped in the parish of Ashbrittle for her said offence. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 44.]

34. Order made by John Trevilian and George Lutterell at Old Cleeve, the 29th October, 1616.

John Norman of Nuncott in the parish of Winsford, husbandman, reputed father of the child, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens of Winsford ; and Elizabeth Coppener of Winsford, the mother, shall pay seven pence weekly towards the maintenance of the said child.

The said John Norman shall enter into bond with two sufficient securities for the payment of the weekly sums imposed on him and the said Elizabeth.

If the said Elizabeth shall neglect this order, or else carefully to provide for the said child, she shall be committed to the House of Correction according to the law. And for her corporal punishment she shall be openly whipped next Saturday after evening prayer by the constable or tithyngman in some convenient place near the parish church. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 43.]

35. The Court having evidence that Mary Bowden, widow, hath dwelt in Burcott in the parish of St. Cuthbert Wells above five years, and hath not since been settled in any other place, so that she ought then to be settled and not removed : Ordered that she shall be settled at Burcott, and have a house for her money to dwell in. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 46.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT IVELCHESTER on the 29th and 30th days of April and the first day of May 15 James [1617], before Robert Phelippes [omitted : The following justices signed orders made at this Sessions—Nicholas Halswell, Thomas Phelippes, Robert Phelippes, Francis Heale, Edward Hext, John Horner, Knts., Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, Thomas Southworth, James Bisse, William Swanton, Thomas Symcoks, Esqs.]

1. On the petition of John Baker and Mary and Jane, his daughters, poor impotent and lame people, that the relief heretofore paid to them by the village of Lotsham green is now withheld by Thomas Cooper the collector of the poor, who also threateneth and railleth upon them with very unchristianlike speeches : Ordered that Robert Hopton and Thomas Symcoks, Esquires, shall call the said Cooper before them and order him to pay a convenient and competent sum for their relief, and if they see cause to bind him over to the next Sessions for his contempt. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 71.]

2. On the petition of Anthony Lyster that ten years last past Anthony his son was accused to be the father of the base child of Joan Hardyn, which child since the death shortly after of both parents, he the said Anthony had kept almost to his utter undoing ; and that he hath now bound the said child apprentice to John Jeanes of Martock, tailor, with a promise of five pounds, which by reason of his poverty he cannot perform ; so that the child is like to become chargeable to the parish of Middlezoy where he was born, unless the parishioners there will pay the same or a greater part : Ordered that Sir Edward Hext and Sir Nicholas Halswell, Knts., shall examine and bind the parties named to stand to any agreement they do make. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 65.]

3. On the petition of Margaret Dauken that she was born at South Petherton, but now liveth in Martock, where of late she fell blind and deaf and cannot maintain herself, and therefore

the inhabitants of South Petherton refuse to receive her: Ordered that Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Thomas Phelipps, Knts., shall examine the cause, and order the settling of the said Margaret as they shall find fit. [S.R., xxvii, i, 29.]

4. Licence to Henry Graye upon his petition to erect a house at North Stoke without four acres of land laid thereunto, so as he procure leave of the lord of the manor.

5. Whereas the inhabitants of St. Thomas in Pensford are charged with the keeping of the base child of Agnes Prickett, of which James Bisse is thought to be the reputed father; and they are so over-burdened with poor people: Ordered that the examination thereof be referred to the two next Justices of that limit, to take such course as they shall think requisite, and to certify the same at the next Sessions.

6. Order that the manor of Draycott shall be rated with the Hundred of Tintinhull in all payments as the Hundred is chargeable, unless they show cause to the contrary at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 63.] Draycott is in the parish of Limington, which is in the Hundred of Stone. As early as 1327 (Excheq. Lay Subsid.) Draycott is reckoned under Tintinhull Hundred.

7. Whereas Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt., and Francis Baber, Esq., have certified to the Court that John Hedges of Priston and Willmington hath lost by fire to the value of 48*li.*, 10*sh.*, 8*d.*: Ordered that the said John Hedges shall have five pounds from the treasurer of the easter division. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 59.]

8. Ordered that Robert Hopton and William Swanton, Esquires, shall appoint where William Prince, of Combe Abbas, with his wife and child shall be settled, and to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions.

9. On the petition of Francis Hopkins, of Avington (Alvington) in the parish of Brempton (Brimpton Devercy) that

he is a very poor man with a great charge of children and hath lived there so long that he cannot be put out by law, and hath gotten leave of the lord of the manor and the parishioners of Avington: Licence to him to build a house within the said parish of Avington aforesaid. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 67.]

10. Referred to Sir Edward Hext, Knt., to end all the differences now depending between William Fry and William Rowe if he can, and or otherwise to certify to the next General Sessions how he find it. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 57.]

11. Roger Rew of Ashbrittle, his licence taken from him, and to tittle no more. [S.R., xvii, ii, 51.]

John Jerman of Thorn St. Margaret, the like. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 87.]

John Whitticke of Evell (Yeovil), the like. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 73.]

12. As it is doubtful whether the house in which Robert Keeping do dwell is in the parishes of Brodmerston [Marston Magna] or West Camel, the issue shall be tried by jury at the Common Law.

13. Ordered that the house that William Browning hath built at Kingsdon by the consent of the lord of the manor and the parishioners shall continue, if he hath accordingly obtained licence of the lord of the manor.

14. On complaint by the overseers and churchwardens of Elme, that two years since Robert Marchant of Frome received into his house at Elme John Church with his family, and that now the man hath gone out of the country, and Marchant hath turned the woman and children out of the house whereby they are like to become very chargeable: Ordered that the said Marchant shall be only wholly taxed for the discharge of the said parish; and that Sir John Horner, Knt., and Robert Hopton, Esq., shall examine where the said woman shall be provided for, and to take such order touching Marchant as shall seem requisite. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 83.]

15. Ordered that the cottage built by Tomsyn Tompsey upon the waste of Kingsdon by the consent of Lord Arundell, lord of the manor, and the parishioners, shall continue. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 84.]

16. Order made at Wiveliscombe the 7th of August, 14 James [1616.]

[Already given under Wells, 1616-7, No. 38]. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 68.]

17. Order made at Yarde the 17th of February, 1616-7.

John Jeanes of Dulverton, the reputed father of the child, so soon as he may be apprehended, shall put in a bond with sufficient securities to take away the said child and keep it without burden or charge to the parish.

Julian Venner of Dulverton, the mother of the child, shall keep the child, until John Jeanes be apprehended, without charge : and shall also be whipped through the town of Dulverton by the officers there on the next market day. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 69.]

John Wyndham. John Trevelyan.

18. Order made the 1st of March, 1616-7.

Anthony Aller of Henton St. George, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child, to be employed and disposed of as the churchwardens shall think fit ; the said Anthony to be bound with sufficient securities unto the churchwardens and overseers for the due performance of the said payment. Mary Pearce of Henton St. George, the mother of the said child, to maintain the said child by her own industry and labour so far as she shall be able. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 58.]

George Speke. Tho. Phelypes.

19. Ordered that a House of Correction shall be erected within the east part of this shire, and that the Justices of the easter division, or six of them, shall "indet" and appoint a place for such House of Correction and the means for building of the same and certify their agreement therein at the next Sessions to be held at Bridgwater.

20. On a petition from Julian Stone, widow, of Charleton Horethorne, subscribed by the parishioners, that she hath with the consent of the lord of the manor erected a cottage, but by reason of her poverty is not able to lay four acres of land thereunto: Ordered that notwithstanding this the cottage shall remain for habitation. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 85.]

21. Ordered that John Crosse shall have five pounds allowed him for his losses by fire from the Treasurer of the hospitals of the wester division, if there be so much in the stock.

Nich. Halswell, Tho. Phelippes, Ro. Phelippes, Francis Heale, Robert Hopton, Edw. Popham, Thomas Southworth, James Bysse.

22. Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt. and Francis Baber, Esq. to examine a certificate touching a cause of bastardy against the son of William Ingham, whether the parish be duly and orderly secured and discharged, as information hath been given to the Court on behalf of the parish to the contrary. And if security hath not been given, to bind over the said Ingham to the next Sessions; but if he hath secured the said parish, then he and his recognizances now forfeited to be discharged.

23. Ordered that John Seagar shall receive of the Treasurer of the Maimed soldiers forty shillings in full satisfaction of such pension as he claimeth to have out of this County, in regard whereof he doth promise never to claim any again.

Tho. Phelipes, Edw. Hext, Ro. Phelipes, John Horner, Robert Hopton, Will. Swanton, Thomas Symcoks, James Bysse, Thomas Southworth.

24. Forasmuch as it appeareth to this Court that Robert Popham hath received many hurts in his Majesty's wars whereby he is utterly disabled to relieve himself; it is ordered that he shall have vi^{li}, xiijs^z, and iiij^d. in full satisfaction of all demands to be had as a pension for a maimed soldier. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 76.]

Ro. Phelipps, Edw. Hext, John Horner, Robert Hopton,
• Tho. Symoks, Tho. Southworth, James Bisse.

25. Ordered that Henry Gaye, who was born at North Stoke and there ever sithence remained, and is a hard labouring man with a charge of wife and children, in respect he hath obtained leave of the lord of the manor and the parishioners, may build a cottage upon the waste of the manor. [*S.R.*, xxvii, ii, 86.]

26. The cause of the settlement of John Keen and his family, which at the last Sessions [*Wells*, 1616-7, No. 7] was referred to certain Justices, but could not be settled because three of them could not conveniently meet together at any one time, is now referred to the same justices, or any two of them, who are to meet at Wells and to certify their doings therein at the next General Sessions.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT TAUNTON on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th days of July, 15 James (1617), before Francis Popham, Nicholas Halswell, Robert Phelipps, Edward Hext, John Windham, Knights, Thomas Southworth, John Trevelian, Edward Popham, John Francis, John Symes, Christopher Preston, Thomas Symcox, William Caple and James Clarke, Esquires.

1. In regard to a cause of bastardy referred at the last Sessions to Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext; they have ordered that Thomas Sampson, the reputed father, and Thomas Hatkins (who hath lived incontinently with the mother of the child) shall pay either of them four pence weekly to the churchwardens of Martock until the parish is discharged of the said child. And although the said Thomas Hatkins did appeal at this Sessions against the said order: It is thought fit that the said order shall continue. [See No. 15.]

2. Ordered that the cottage built by John Prukett upon parcel of the wastes of the manor of Barton David shall stand, though there be not four acres of land laid thereunto, so as the said Prukett do procure licence from the lord of the manor. [*S.R.*, xxvii, ii, 101.]

3. On a petition that William Trezare of Ilminster [Ilminster], who three years since received a poor child from Puckington as an apprentice with two suits of clothes and forty shillings, doth cruelly beat and wrong the said apprentice: Referred to Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Phelipps to examine, and if found true to order the said Trezare to redeliver the said clothes and money and to discharge the said apprentice; and on his refusal, to bind him over to the next Sessions.

4. Touching the differences between John Harley and his apprentice John Lissent, which were referred to Thomas Warre and Thomas Brereton, Esquires, and an order made which is now in dispute: It is ordered by the Court after a full and deliberate hearing of both sides and their witnesses that the said John Lissent shall presently go to his said master and dwell as his apprentice during his time yet to come.

Francis Popham, Nich. Halswell, Edw. Hext, Jo. Symes,
Thomas Symcocke, Edw. Popham, Tho. Southworth,
Robt. Cuffe, Will. Capell.

6. Whereas at the last Sessions holden at Ilchester [No. 22] the churchwardens and overseers of Compton Dando gave a certificate that they had received from William Ingham, the father, the money and security required; the examination of which was referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, Knt. and Francis Baber, Esq., who have given in a certificate that the inhabitants are truly satisfied: Notwithstanding Will. Walton, gent, did constantly affirm that the parish was not sufficiently secured. The matter is therefore again referred to the said Justices to ascertain if the said certificate is correct. Further as the Court doth conceive that either the said Will. Walton or Will. Ingham hath abused and wronged the Court by false information: Ordered that they shall bind over to the good behaviour him whom upon examination they shall find to have wronged the Court, and make certificate at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, i, 13.]

7. Whereas it was ordered long heretofore that the parish of Long Sutton should pay twenty shillings yearly to Somerton towards the relief of their poor, which afterwards they appealed

against ; upon hearing of both sides often times in Court, it is at this Sessions ordered that Long Sutton shall only pay ten shillings yearly.

8. An order made the 20th day of July, 1617.

Inprimis. Nicholas Ruddock, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child, whereof six pence to be paid to Katherine Canker, the mother, for the support of the child, and two pence to be paid to the overseers of the poor of St. John's in Glaston [bury], to remain in their hands to make up a stock for binding the said child an apprentice.

Item. The said Katherine shall keep the child with the six pence.

Item. The said N. Ruddock and K. Canker shall be both whipped through the high street of Glaston until their "bodies shall be bloody," and there shall be during the time of their whipping two fiddles playing before them in regard to make known their lewdness in begetting the said base child upon the Sabbath day coming from dancing.

Item. Both parties shall put in sufficient security to perform all the contents of this order. [S.R., xxvii, i, 36.]

Robert Wright. Tho. Southworth.

9. An order made at Wyveliscombe the 27th June, 1617.
Roger Hamwood of Wellington, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the making of the said order to the churchwardens of Wellington to be by them paid to the mother so long as she shall keep the child.

Anne Bagwell the mother shall keep the child, or in default pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens.

The said Anne Bagwell shall for her offence be well whipped in the town of Wellington. [S.R., xxvii, i, 2, 5.]

Humphrey Windham. Jo. Colles.

10. Ordered that the cottage built by Edward Masters upon parcell of the wastes of the manor of South Brewham shall

stand although there be not four acres of land laid thereunto, so as the said Masters do procure licence from the lord of the manor. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 97.]

11. Ordered that the cottage built at Milton by Thomas Cox with the consent of the lord of the manor and the parishioners shall continue for habitation, although in respect of his poverty he cannot lay four acres of land thereunto. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 96.]

12. Ordered that William Zane shall be whipped according to the order set down by Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext; and for that Anne West, who charged the said William to be the reputed father of her child for which he received the punishment as aforesaid, is alleged to be again with child, whereupon it was ordered that the said William should be bound over to the good behaviour until the allegation was proved; whereupon the said William delivered a *Supersedeas* unto the Court from the King's Bench which was allowed him: Yet notwithstanding in regard that afterwards the said William at the time he received his punishment threatened the prosecutors of the cause very sharply: It is also ordered upon his contempt and great misdemeanours after the delivery of the said *Supersedeas* that the said William shall be committed for one month and bound to the good behaviour with two sureties. [See also No. 17; S.R., xxvii, ii, 75.]

13. Certificate from Robert Hopton and William Swanton that according to an order made at the last Ilchester Sessions [No. 8] they have appointed that William Prince with his wife and child of Combe Abbas shall be settled at Misterton in the parish of Crewkerne, where he was last resident by the space of two whole years as covenant servant with John Quier. [S.R., xxvii, i, 18, 19.]

14. Certificate from Sir Thomas Bridges and Francis Baber that the parishioners of Compton Dando are sufficiently secured by William Ingham. [Ilchester Sessions, No. 22.]

5. An order made by Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext the 14th of May, 1617, concerning the base-born child of Margaret Pearl of Martock. [Details given in No. 1. S.R., xxvii, ii, 95.]

16. An order made by Sir Edward Hext and Thomas Symcockes, Esq. the 19th of July, 1617, concerning the base-born child of Alice Helliard of Balstonbury [Baltonsborough].

John Brooks *alias* Baker of Lympsham, labourer, the reputed father of the said child named George Helliard shall weekly pay sixpence until he shall take the child himself; further he and his father shall be bound to the Churchwardens in the sum of twenty pounds for the weekly payment. And for that the said Alice Helliard hath heretofore had a bastard child, and hath been committed to the House of Correction at Ivelchester for one whole year, and hath "eftsoonest" offended again: she shall again be committed to the said House until she put in good security for her good behaviour. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 94.]

17. An order made by Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext the 9th of June, 1617, touching the base-born child of Anne West of Long Sutton.

Forasmuch as it appeareth by most infallible presumptions and manifest proofs that William Zane of Long Sutton, horse-breaker, is the reputed father of the child, and in regard he hath at many several times with many protestations and vows promised to marry her in the presence of the father, mother and brother of the said Anne West, and at another time received ten pounds in the way of marriage, being her whole stock and means; also the said Anne being cited to Wells and making default was excommunicated, and about a fortnight since she riding for her state to Wells, the said Zane rode along with her, and by the way took a book from his pocket and swore by the same book that if she would deny him and nominate another father for her child he would marry her before Michaelmas: Ordered that the said Zane shall pay two shillings weekly from the birth of the child until he take and keep it, of which two shillings and four pence are to remain in the hands of the churchwardens of Long Sutton; and that the said William Zane and Anne West shall receive

punishment of whipping at the next Sessions at Taunton ; also that the said Zane shall repay the sum of ten pounds or else marry her according to his promise. [See No. 12. S.R., xxvii, ii, 93.]

18. Order made by Sir Nicholas Halswell and Robert Cuffe, Esq., the 30th of June, 1616, touching the two base-born children of Cicelly Lyde late of Somerton.

Thomas Chinn late of Shapwick, miller, the reputed father of the said children, shall pay weekly ten pence to the overseers of Shapwick for the necessary relief and maintenance of the children ; and to give security for the said payment.

The said Cicely Lyde to keep the children, or on refusal to be committed to the House of Correction. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 92.]

19. Order made at Pensford by Sir Thomas Bridges and Francis Baber, Esq., the 12th of July, 1617, touching the base-born child of Agnes Prickett deceased.

James Bisse of Penceford, yeoman, the reputed father of the said child, in consideration that it hath been very chargeable to the inhabitants, as appeareth by their "poores" book and other accompts, shall pay four pounds forty shillings at Michaelmas and forty shillings at Lady Day next following, for money already disbursed ; and shall enter into sufficient bond with securities to keep and save harmless the said parish. And if the said Bisse shall find out and prove another father, as he allegeth he can, then the said four pounds to be repaid. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 91.]

20. An order made by Sir John Windham and John Trevelyan, Esq., on the 26th of May, 1617, touching the base-born child of Agnes Gymlett of the parish of [] .

Whereas Richard Wheddon is the father of the child, for the discharge of the said parish and the meet sustentation of the child, the parties being of "sufficientry," the said Agnes Gymlett shall pay to the overseers of the said parish of Williton twelve pence weekly, to continue until she shall give sufficient security to hold the said parish harmless. The said Richard Wheddon to be bound in the same manner.

Their corporal punishment to be inflicted for their misdemeanours in this kind we overpass by this order, forasmuch as they have been enjoined to penance and punishment by ecclesiastical censure given heretofore. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 90.]

21. An order made by Sir John Windham and John Trevelyan, Esq., the 26th of May, 1617, touching the base-born child of Johan Webber of Huishchampflower.

Richard James of the same parish, the reputed father, shall forthwith pay to the churchwardens and overseers of the same three pounds, there to remain until the said Richard shall put in some more sufficient security; and shall also pay eight pence weekly to the same.

Johan Webber shall keep and maintain the child without charge or burden to the said parish; and for her corporal punishment shall be openly whipped in the said parish by the constables or other officers there.

22. James Clarke, Esq., Treasurer of the Hospital for the wester division, Henry Nevell, Gent., for the easter division.

23. Upon the oath of Peter Wills of Nettlecombe that Edward Jones did appear at the last sessions: Ordered that his recognizance shall be discharged. [S.R., xxvii, i, 6.]

24. Upon oath by William Morgan that a Recognizance certified by Mr. Warr to the last Sessions was mistaken, and that John Martin who was therein bound did acknowledge the said recognizance to appear at the last Sessions, and did appear: Ordered that the said Recognizance shall be discharged.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT BRIDGWATER on the 14th, 15th, 16th days of September, 1617, before Sir Edward Hext, Sir John Windham, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, Knights, John Francis, Thomas Southworth, Edward Rogers, Edward Popham, Christopher

Preston, James Bisse, William Swanton, Hugh Pyne, John Symes, Robert Cuffe, Esquires.

1. Robert Warre of Weston in Zoyland shall continue there, as in the opinion of the Court he is a parishioner. [S.R., xxvii, i, 60.]

2. Licence for Hugh Trubbes of Enmore, with the consent of the lord of the manor and the inhabitants to erect a cottage on the waste, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxvii, i, 63.]

3. Similar licence for James Woodland of Aishcott. [S.R., xxvii, i, 59.]

4. Similar licence for Thomas Ward of Weston. [S.R., xxvii, i, 73.]

5. Whereas Heale bridge in the parish of Bradford in the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane is now of late fallen greatly in decay, and for that it is [not]* certainly known by whom the said bridge should be repaired, it doth fall more and more in decay, and the said parish is amerced for not repairing the same: Referred to John Symes, James Clercke, and Robert Cuffe, esquires, to order and appoint by whom the said bridge shall be repaired. [S.R., xxvii, i, 66.]

6. On a petition from the inhabitants of Downhead within the parish of Dowltinge, that about Whitsuntide last twelve-month, one Michell, a collier, came to Downhead, and undertaking to make "charcke coale" continued there in a wood as an unknown person for a whole year, and being joined by his wife and a child being born in the wood, he hath of late lived with James West: Ordered that the said Michell with his family be forthwith moved to the place where he was born or did last dwell. [S.R., xxvii, i, 62.]

* This seems required by the context.

7. Ordered that the Keeper of the House of Correction at Taunton shall have five pounds from the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the wester division; and it is referred to John Symes and James Clarcke, esquires, to appoint how and in what manner the same shall be employed, and to whom it shall be delivered.

8. Whereas David Shetter did give ten pounds to the inhabitants of Sutton Mallett, to remain with them for ever on condition that they should maintain him as long as he shall live; and whereas the money was delivered to Baldwyn Mallett, gent., deceased, then collector for the poor for the said parish, which money is now in the hands of John Mallett, his executor, as they allege, who utterly denieth the same: The cause is referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell and Sir Francis Hele, knts., Edward Rogers and Robert Cuffe, esquires, or to any two of them, to examine and make an order, and to bind over those who refuse to perform the said order to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxvii, i, 82.]

9. Whereas at the last Taunton Sessions Marmaduke Jennings, Esq., was presented for not repairing a certain market way in Curry Revell from Crastland gate to the west end of the same lane: Ordered that the matter be referred to the next Ilchester Sessions, when Mr. Jennings is to warn the parties who made the presentment to appear and prosecute the same.

10. Whereas there is a question how the fifty pounds yearly paid to the Muster-master by virtue of his Majesty's letters for his service in mustering the trained bands is to be levied: Ordered that it be raised by a tithyng rate in every Hundred, to be raised by the constables of the Hundred by a warrant to be sent to them by the Justices of the several limits in the County. [S.R., xxvii, i, 81.]

11. The form of the warrant for the same to be issued by the Justices to the Constables of the Hundreds. It recites that Captain Samuel Norton has been appointed by the Lord

Lieutenant, and his choice confirmed by the King; and that Humfry Smyth is to receive the money, which is to be paid to the Justice before the feast of All Saints.

12. Licence for the house heretofore erected by John Cole of Shapwick, with the consent of the parishioners and of the lord of the manor, to remain, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxvii, i, 78.]

13. On a difference between the parishes of Trull and Bradford as to the settlement of Edward Pursey: Referred to John Symes, Thomas Brereton, and James Clercke, esquires, to call before them both sides, and after examination, to make an order. [S.R., xxvii, i, 61.]

14. Ordered that Thomas Bower be bound to his good behaviour for speaking insolent words to Sir Edward Hext since the 26th of August last notwithstanding a *supersedeas* delivered into the Court, for that his words were in contempt of the Justices of this County and of the Bench.

15. On the humble petition of Richard Hucker of East-bower in the parish of Bridgwater, labourer, now by reason of old age and impotency unable to get his own living, licence is given for him to build a house on a piece of ground purchased from William Huckmore, esq., although there be not four acres of land, as his petition is confirmed by a certificate from divers of the inhabitants of East Bower. [S.R., xxvii, i, 69.]

16. Order made by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Thomas Symcocks, esq., the 15th day of September, 1617.

Reighnold Wraye, husbandman, of Kingweston, the reputed father of Clement Wray *als.* Hutton, and Luce Hutton, the mother, shall pay ten pence and eight pence respectively to the overseers of Kingweston for the relief of the child, of which money two pence is to be kept for a stock to apprentice the child when it shall be twelve years of age. Farther the two parents shall be bound with sufficient sureties in twenty pounds for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxvii, i, 76.]

17. Order made by Humfry Windham and John Colles, esquires, at Wyveliscombe the 27th of June, 1617.

Phillip Tompson of Combflory, miller, the reputed father, shall forthwith pay to Agnes Fortte, the mother of the child, of Wyveliscombe, six pence for every week since the birth of the said child, in respect he hath neither paid nor given anything; and henceforth ten pence weekly.

The said Agnes Fortte shall for her offence be well whipped at Wyveliscombe upon a market day.

Footnote that the churchwardens have taken bond for the payment of the money. [S.R., xxvii, i, 84.]

18. Order made by Sir Nicholas Halswell and Edward Popham, esq., the 17th of September [1617].

John Hayes the elder of North Petherton, the reputed father, to pay six pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens of North Petherton for the relief of the child.

Aleise Campe, the mother, to keep her child Katherine, or pay six pence weekly; and for her offence to be well whipped. [S.R., xxvii, i, 83.]

19. Whereas Hercules Pulline of Charlton Horethorne was convented at this Sessions for building a cottage contrary to the statute; and whereas a certificate of Charlton parishioners states that he hath lived there for twenty years and is a hard labouring man and very orderly: Ordered that the said cottage shall continue, so that he hath obtained the licence of the lord of the manor, as stated in the certificate. [S.R., xxvii, i, 87, 88.]

20. A similar order in the case of Henry Pennye of Charlton Horethorne in the same position. [As above.]

21. A similar order in the case of John Collens of Charlton Horethorne in the same position. [As above.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS the 13th, 14th 15th, and 16th days of January 15 James [1617-8] before the Reverend Father in Christ Arthur [Lake] Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir John Horner, Sir Edward Rodney, knts., the Rev. Robert Wright, D.D., the Rev. Gerard Wood, D.D., Archdeacon of Wells, Thomas Hughes, Thomas Southworth, Edward Popham, John Maye, Francis Baber, Christopher Preston, James Bisse, William Swanton, Hugh Pyne, John Symes, Thomas Symcocks, Thomas Wyndham, Joseph Rattle, William Caple [Capell], Edward Taynte [Tynte], esquires.

1. The pension of 40 shillings made to William Godfrey, a maimed soldier, is, in consideration of his miserable estate, augmented to five marks, to begin at this present Sessions.

2. According to a former order made and agreed on touching the answering of all letters, proclamations and such like from the lords of the privy Counsel for and concerning any general matters for this County: Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and John Maye, esq., are appointed for the easter division, and Edward Popham and John Symes, esquires, for the wester division, for this year to come.

3. On an appeal by John Evered against a weekly payment of six pence in a bastardy order made by Sir Francis Hele, knt., and Edward Rogers, esq., the last day of December 1617: As there is no proof but only the bare accusation of Alice Gould the mother, and many witnesses produced to charge William Wembridge of Burnham: Ordered that the said order be utterly void and frustrate, and that the said Wembridge shall make the like payment to the churchwardens of Stockland Bristol, until the child be seven years old, and that the said Alice be whipped. [S.R., xxviii, 10, 34.]

4. Whereas there was a reference heretofore unto certain Justices by whom the bridge called Heale bridge should be maintained: It is now ordered that there shall be no process

made forth touching the same for that it cannot be amended till the spring of the year.

5. Thomas Symons and Edmund Symons, querents, and Peter Parsons, William Panter, sen., and Will. Panter, jun., defendants.

Whereas Peter Parsons was bound over to appear at this Sessions for that being tithingman of Midsomer Norton he neglected to serve a warrant for the apprehension of Will. Panter, jun. ; and whereas by a letter from Sir Thomas Seamer, knt., justice of the peace in the county of Gloucester, it appeareth that the said Will. Panter being the reputed father of the child of Anne Turner, did before the birth of the child arrange with Thomas Symons to convey the said A. Turner from Keynsham into Wales or Ireland ; and on the journey the child being born at Aust the said T. Symons was committed to the gaol at Gloucester as being the reputed father ; and further the said Will. Panter, jun., and Peter Parsons became bounden to Edmund Symons and the said Thos. Symons to save them harmless against the parish of Aust ; and also the said Will. Panter, jun., gave false information that the name of the mother was Ann Sloper instead of Ann Turner, and that he and Will. Panter, sen., were parties to the conveying away of the said Ann Turner ; and that the said Peter Parsons hath a counter-bond of the said Will. Panter, jun., for saving him harmless in the premises : Ordered that the said Peter Parsons be forthwith delivered to William Hayward, one of the constables of the hundred of Keynsham, to be delivered within six days to the constables of the nearest hundred of Gloucestershire, who shall bring him before Sir Thomas Seamer, knt., and Richard Barkley, esq. ; and that warrants be issued against Will. Panter, sen., and Will. Panter, jun., to bring them also before the said justices, to be dealt with according to the law.

6. Whereas Francis Whittington was at this Sessions continued to his good behaviour and also bound to appear at the next Assizes ; now on the information of Sir Richard Gifford, knt., that the King's Majesty is pleased to assume the consideration and hearing of the cause, the said Francis is discharged of

the good behaviour and appearance, and no recognizance shall be certified until his Majesty's pleasure be further known.

7. Whereas Richard Crosse was born and married at Cucklington, where he had five children, and about one year sithence he rented a tenement at Staverdale where after his removal he died ; and then his widow Mary and her children returned to Cucklington, where now the inhabitants will not suffer them to continue : Referred to James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, to take order therein at their discretion, and to certify their finding at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxviii, 31.]

8. Referrad to Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., Francis Baber, Thomas Southworth, and Edward Tainte, esquires, or any three of them, to enquire whether the bastard child of Erne Sweete shall remain at Compton Martin or at Chewe Magna, where it now is. Certificate to be made to the next Sessions.

9. On a petition in the name of the greater part of the most sufficient inhabitants of Crescombe that there might be no license granted to any one to keep any tippling house there : it is thought fit and ordered that all the alehouses or tippling houses in Crescombe shall be suppressed, and no license granted to any one there but only Thomas Delton, who hath a license now granted to him to tipple there. [S.R., xxviii, 11.]

10. Whereas Giles Hemmen of Winscombe, blacksmith, hath the consent of the inhabitants (as appeareth by certificate), and of one John Coxe, gent., who holdeth certain lands and tenements in fee there, to build a cottage on a plot of ground near the highway, a place called Hardberie, within the said parish : Ordered that the cottage may continue, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto, provided he doth procure such license aforesaid from the lord of the soyle. [S.R., xxxiii, 1.]

11. Whereas Robert Godwyn, gent., doth refuse to pay the tithing rate of Wookey (of which place he holdeth the parsonage, as his father before him), and hath not shown any good cause to excuse or acquit himself : Ordered that he shall henceforth

pay the said rate until he can show good cause to the contrary. [S.R., xxviii, 6.]

12. Whereas Nathanaell Still, esq., hath lately bound over to the Sessions Alice Elme, late of Broad Chalke in Wiltshire, mother of a base child born at Shorscombe in the parish of Wellow, whereof she accuseth William Bigge to be the father, who cannot now be found ; and for that the said Alice hath left her child in the night at the house of William Wookey in Chewton, where she never dwelt ; by reason thereof the child is now chargeable to the said parish : Referred to the two next Justices adjoining to Shorscombe to examine and enquire, and to certify the truth thereof and their opinions to the next Sessions.

13. Whereas Thomas Hellyer, gent., brought unto us letters from the lords of the Counsell for his assistance in carriage of Salt peeter, and complaineth that divers persons whose names he doth not relate do refuse to help him as they aught : Agreed that the said Thos. Hellyer shall bring unto us within our several limits the names of such who refuse, that we upon examination of the refusal and default may show our forwardness in the said service for the said Hellyer.

14. Whereas on the 20th day of December last past Richard Brookman of Stanton Drewe received great loss by fire : Ordered that 53 shillings and 4 pence be paid by the Treasurer for the hospitals of the easter division to the overseers of Stanton Drewe towards the rebuilding of the house and the relieving of the said Brookman. [S.R., xxviii, 3.]

15. Whereas Joane Skotten *als.* Edgell, the wife of John Edgell of Sand, in the parish of Wedmore, is a lunatic and not well in her wits whereby it is doubted that she will do very much mischief and set on many dangerous attempts ; and for that it is much suspected that she did lately set on fire the house of William Phippen of Sand to the value of 50 pounds and upwards : Ordered for the better prevention of greater dangers which may ensue that the said Joane shall be sent to the House of Cor-

rection at Ivelchester, where she is to be received and kept according to the law appointed for such persons; and that the parishioners of Wedmore to pay two shillings weekly to the Keeper of the House for her relief. [S.R., xxviii, 5.]

16. Whereas there is a difference between the parishioners of Childcompton and Stone Easton touching the settling of Henry Allen: Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., Francis Baber, William Capell, and Edward Teynt, esquires, or any three of them, to call before them some of the parishioners of both parishes, and to order and appoint in what place Henry Allen ought by law to be settled. [S.R., xxviii, 42.]

17. Whereas oath hath been made and a certificate (shown), that Thomas Downe of Charlton Horethorne is licensed to keep an ale-house, where there hath been many disorders, and that the house standeth upon the parsonage ground which is of good yearly value and rented by the said Downe, and that the house standeth at one end of the town very unfit for a tippling house; and further that a daughter of the said Downe was lately delivered of a base child without the help of any woman, which child was found dead and full grown: Ordered that the said Ale house shall be suppressed, and the two next Justices to send for the said Downe and take up his licence from him; and farther to examine the matter touching the birth of the child. [S.R., xxviii, 12, 47.]

18. Whereas about Easter last a base child was born at North Barrow of which Edith Lewis is the mother and John Rowswell of West Lidford the reputed father, and thereupon a warrant was granted by Thomas Symcox, esq., against Rowswell, who was delivered to William Eavell of Lidford, sworn tithyngman (as deputy for Andrew Whitehead) to be conveyed to his Majesty's gaol at Ivelchester until he had given security to discharge the said parish of the said child; and for that the said Eavell suffered the said Rowswell to escape (who is now fled the country), for which contempt of justice a warrant of the good behaviour was granted against the said Eavell at the last sessions held at Ivelchester, since which time he happened to die and

never answered the same: It is now ordered that the parishioners of Barrow shall keep the child until the reputed father be apprehended.

19. On a petition from the parishioners of Pitcombe that about four years since Humfry Langier received into his house his wife's sister Sara Clifford, who hath had a base child likely to be chargeable to the parish, and it is alleged that Humfry received goods and chattels to the value of 12 pounds with the said Sara: Referred to James Bisse and William Swanton, esquires, to call before them the said Humfry and so many of the parishioners as they shall think requisite, and to certify their doings therein to the next Sessions.

20. Whereas the parishioners of St. George's (Easton in Gordano) have appealed against an order of Sir Hugh Smyth, knt., settling Elizabeth Sanfield, widow there: It is now thought fit that the said Elizabeth shall be sent to Clyvedon to be received, relieved, and maintained. [S.R., xxviii, 44.]

21. On a certificate from Sir Thomas Thynne, knt., lord of the manor of Walton, and a petition in the name of all the parishioners of Walton: ordered that a cottage to be built by Rowland Moore shall remain and continue although there be not four acres of land attached. [S.R., xxviii, 4.]

22. Ordered that the assuring of the County Court book shall be referred to Sir George Speke, knt., and Christopher Preston, esq., during the time that John Powlet, esq., was sheriff.

23. Ordered that there shall be no process made forth against those that ought to repair Exbridge.

24. Ordered that the alehouse of Annacletey Plumbly at Westbury be from henceforth suppressed. [S.R., xxviii, 33.]

25. Whereas there are differences between John Carter and his wife Jane about allowing of her maintenance: Ordered that he shall allow her twelve pence weekly and houseroom, and that

her brother shall give security that the said Jane shall live quietly with her said husband or else she shall be sent to the House of Correction.

26. Order made on the 14th November, 1617, by Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., and Frances Baber, esq.

John Hort (or Haurt) of Chewton, husbandman, reputed father of the child, pay ten pence weekly to the overseers of Chewton until the child be old enough to earn his own living.

Isabel Hannam of Chewton, the mother, to keep the child herself or otherwise to pay six pence weekly.

Both parties to enter into bond with sufficient securities for the performance of this order.

Isabell Hannam to be whipped two several times, the first at Pensford next market day after the order and again at Chewton the Monday next following. [S.R., xxviii, 41.]

Thomas Bridges. Francis Baber.

27. Order made on the 15th of January, 1617-8, by Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., Edward Popham and Robert Cuffe, esquires.

The matter having been referred to us at the last Sessions at Bridgwater, and witnesses and probable circumstances having been examined, we do find that Matthew Sully of Bridgwater is the father of the base child of Maud Sully of Haygrove in the said parish, deceased, and we do order him to pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child, and to give sufficient security for the performance of the order. [S.R., xxviii, 40.]

Nich. Halswell. Ed. Popham. Ro. Cuffe.

28. Heading of another Bastardy order, not completed. Thomas Botham of Wedmore by Hext and Symcocks. [S.R., xxviii, 39.]

[S.R., xxviii, 35-38, other bastardy orders not entered here.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT IVELCHESTER the 14th, 15th and 16th days of April, 16 James [1618], before Sir Edward Hext, Knight, Thomas Southworth, Francis Baber, Edward Popham, William Swanton, Christopher Preston, James Byse, Nathanaell Still and James Kyrton, Esquires.

1. Ordered that the difference whether the manor of Draycott be within the Hundred of Stone or within the Hundred of Tintenhull shall be heard at Ivelchester Sessions next where all parties are to attend at their perils; in the mean time the former orders to stand, and the order then to be made to be final.

2. With reference to the order made concerning Joane Edgill of Stone in Wedmore [see Wells Sess. 1617-8, No. 15], whereas John Edgill the husband hath preferred a petition subscribed by many of the parishioners of Wedmore that William Phippen prosecuted the cause out of malice, and that the said Joane was not nor is lunatic as the said Phippen suggested, so that the said parishioners are driven to a needless charge: Ordered that the said order [No. 15] shall be void and the said Joane discharged of her imprisonment so long as she shall carry herself quietly and orderly. [S.R., xviii, 60.]

3. Ordered upon many reasons and good causes that William Mantle be discharged from his apprenticeship with Spencer Ryves, late of Crewkerne, goldsmith.

4. An order made at Ivelchester in 13 James [No. 18] concerning the residence of Adrian West at Martock do stand and continue, so that he may remain in any house that he can rent for his money.

5. On a petition from the inhabitants of Stoke St. Michael *als.* Stoke Lane that of late by reason of many "colemines" which are set to work in the country there near adjoining, there is so much travelling that way that the highways there are much in decay and grown very foundeours; so that the inhabitants

there are much charged with the repairing of the same, and are very likely to be far more charged, as also by the pains and amercements which they are likely to sustain for not repairing the same, so that the inhabitants desire that the tithing of Dowltinge (of which Stokelane is parcel) may contribute towards the repairs aforesaid: Ordered that the inhabitants of Dowltinge shall join and contribute to the charges unless they show cause to the contrary at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxviii, 55.]

6. Whereas there is a difference between the inhabitants of Broadmerston [Marston Magna] about the repairing of the highways which are very foundeours and bad, as appeareth by a petition from some part of the inhabitants who have preferred a course and certain rate for the carriage of stone for the repairs, which is opposed by some other part of the inhabitants: Referred to James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, to call before them some of the parties on either side and to order a course according to the statute for repairing highways; and if any refuse to certify their names to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxx, 1.]

7. On a petition from the inhabitants of Weston Bampfild that Henry Martin is very burdensome to the parish and the bordering parishes in regard of his lunacy, and that he hath a stock of 40 pounds or thereabouts in other men's hands who allow little or nothing for a maintenance, but suffer him to wander about the country: Referred to James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, to order and settle a course whereby the said Martin may be settled and his stock employed for his maintenance. [S.R., xxviii, 68.]

8. Nothing having been done in the matter of suppressing the alehouse of Thomas Downe [see Wells Sess., 1617-8, No. 17], and the said Downe traversing the accusations made; the cause is now referred to Sir George Speke, knt., James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, or any two of them, to examine and do therein as they shall think fit, and to certify the next Sessions how they find it.

9. Whereas the churchwardens of Tintenhull are charged with the payment of maimed soldiers and hospital money, and whereas they know not how to levy and raise the same indifferently according to every man's ability unless by a tithing rate: Ordered that the said money be rated, collected and levied after a tithing rate. [S.R., xxviii, 61.]

10. Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and Thomas Southworth, esq., are to examine the cause why Nicholas Teeke, jun., of Wedmore, doth refuse to contribute towards the relief of the poor, for which he has been bound over to this Sessions by the overseers.

11. Whereas one Alice Hayward was lately settled in service at Kingston Deverill in Wilts, and there had a child, and hath since come to Maperton in this county: now on the petition of the inhabitants who fear that she will become chargeable it is ordered that they do convey the said Alice to Kingston Deverill where she ought to be received and provided for.

12. On a petition from the inhabitants of Pitcombe that Luce Pitman, a very poor impotent woman, hath been long chargeable to the parish, and of late the greatest part of the inhabitants have agreed that the overseers should raise eight pounds and four shillings for the placing of the said Luce in the hospital at Brewton, yet some of the inhabitants do refuse to pay anything: Referred to James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, to examine the said cause, and to bind over any who refuse to pay to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxx, 20, 21.]

13. Ordered that John Fludd and John Kingsland of Nether Stoay [Stowey], and all other persons licensed now or hereafter to sell beer there, shall buy the same from Richard Jennings, who at this Sessions is allowed to be a common brewer for the said town, and enjoined to be always sufficiently provided to furnish them with good and wholesome beer. [S.R., xxviii, 62.]

14. Whereas there is and hath been for a long time many differences between Robert Mogg and his wife so that he refuseth her any maintenance, although in her right he enjoyeth

a tenement worth 10 pounds by the year, as by a certificate from the inhabitants of Doultling doth appear: Referred to Thomas Southworth, James Byssie and James Kyrton, esquires, to examine the said cause, and order and determine the same if they can; and if Mogg refuse to abide their order, to bind him over to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxx, 26, 27.]

15. Whereas Elizabeth Gilbert lately lived at Sherborne for one year and more before the feast of St. Michael and there was begotten with child; and hath now come unto West Camel, where the parishioners do account that she ought not to remain, but have often sent her to Sherborne where the inhabitants refuse to receive her so that the said Elizabeth yet remaineth at West Camel: Ordered that the parishioners do forthwith convey the said Elizabeth to Sherborne where the Court doth conceive by law she ought to be received, settled and provided for.

16. Whereas there is a difference between the inhabitants of the town of Stowey and of the town of Bridgwater touching the settlement of Margaret, widow of William Powlett and her children; and that there was an order made by Sir John Windham, knt., and John Trevellian, esq., that they should be settled at Bridgwater where the inhabitants refuse to receive them as may appear by a petition from the inhabitants of Stowey: Ordered that the said order shall stand until Bridgwater shall show good cause to the contrary in some open Sessions to be holden for this county. [R.S., xxx, 31.]

17. Whereas Elizabeth Twytt was lately settled in service at Congersbury with one John Irishe, and was there begotten with child; and then went to Barrow to the house of a kinsman where the child was born, so that the parishioners are at a charge for their relief, whereof they complain: Ordered that the said Elizabeth and her child shall be sent to Congersbury; and further as whereas there is an order made by John Maye and Joseph Rattle, esquires, that the reputed father should pay eight pence weekly, that this weekly payment from the birth of the child shall be paid to the overseers of Barrow until the said Elizabeth is removed to Congersbury. [S.R., xxx, 30.]

18. Licence to Symon Hixe of Castle Cary to build a cottage so as he get leave of the lord of the manor, upon a petition by the inhabitants there. [S.R., xxx, 33.]

19. The like to Richard Olliver of Horsington to continue a cottage already built, on a petition from the inhabitants that it was built by leave of the lord of the manor. [S.R., xxvii, i, 14 ; xxx, 12.]

20. The like to John Michell of Henstridge to continue his cottage already built by the consent of Sir John Dacombe and the inhabitants, as appeareth by his petition together with a certificate from William Swanton, esq. [S.R., xxx, 17.]

21. The like to Richard Hunt of Wollavington to build a cottage, so as he obtain leave of the lord of the manor, upon a petition from the inhabitants. [S.R., xxx, 23.]

22. William Moore being bound to appear here in a cause of bastardy and an order therein made and certified, he doth now appeal from the said order. [See *post* No. 27.]

23. Licence to Thomas Knight of Combe St. Nicholas to be a badger of barley and to convert it into malt and the same to sell in Charde and Ilmister markets. [S.R., xxx, 4.]

24. With regard to the petition of the parishioners of Chewton concerning the deserted child of Alice Elme [Wells Sess. 1617-8, No. 12] which was referred to the two justices next to Shorscombe, the parishioners of Chewton do now allege that they could not procure any two of the said justices to meet conveniently since the last Sessions: Referred again to the two next Justices and Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., Francis Baber and Nathanael Styll, esquires, or any two of them, to examine the said cause and take such course therein as to them shall seem requisite. And if the inhabitants of Chewton shall be freed from the charge of the said child, then they shall be repaid their charges by the parishioners of that place where the child shall be maintained.

25. On the appeal of William Moore of Blagdon against an order made by Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and John Maye to pay six pence weekly for the support of the child of Elizabeth Robbins of Priddy, "charging one other to be the father:" Referred to Sir Edward Rodney, Knt., and John Maye, esq., to re-examine the said cause and the proofs on both sides, and to certify their doings to the next Sessions.

26. An order made by Sir Francis Heale, knt., and Edward Rogers, esq., the 9th of February, 1617-8.

Anthony Gillinge of Wollavington shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens of that parish, to be kept as a stock and applied to the necessity of the child; and shall enter into security for the due performance of this order.

Agnes Barrett, the mother of the child, shall keep the child herself; and for her offence therein shall be whipped by the constable or tithyngman of the parish.

27. The order against which William Moore appealed; No. 25.

28. An order made by Sir Thomas Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext, knts., the 12th day of April, 1618.

Edward Laver of Martock, yeoman, shall pay twelve pence weekly for the support of the child Margaret, daughter of Ann Knight, widow, and shall be bound with sufficient securities in twenty pounds for the performance of this order. And as the said Ann Knight hath been of lewd conversation before this last offence, she shall receive punishment according to the Statute.

29. An order made at Old Cleeve the 8th day of April, 1618, by George Luttrell and John Trevelian, esquires.

John Winter, the reputed father of the child, shall pay weekly sixteen pence to the overseers of the parish of Timberscombe where the child was born; and shall put in good and sufficient securities unto the authorities of Timberscombe, and of Carhampton where the child was begotten, or otherwise be committed to the common gaol within this County.

As Priscilla Spurrier, the mother of the child, now languisheth by reason of extreme sickness, as soon as she shall be able safely to travel, to be brought before the said Justices to receive such punishment as by law is required.

30. An order made the 8th day of April, 1618, by George Luttrell and John Trevelian, esquires.

John Vicary of Dulverton, the reputed father, to pay four pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Cutcombe, and enter into bond with sufficient securities, or else be committed to the Common Gaol.

Joan Vicary, the mother of the child, shall endeavour herself to the uttermost of her power to cherish, nourish, and maintain her child or else be committed to the house of Correction. And for her corporal punishment she is to be whipped by the officer of Cutcombe or his sufficient deputy in the market place of Dunster on Friday the 13th day of this present month about ten of the clock in the forenoon.

31. An order made the 11th day of April, 1618, by John May and Nathanael Still, esquires.

Christopher Locke, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of East Brent, the money to be kept for a stock for the placing of the child.

Joane Eale, the mother of the child, to keep it herself, or else pay the weekly sum of twelve pence.

Both parties to put in sufficient security unto the officers for the performance of this order.

The said Joane Eale shall be publickly whipped at the nearest market town on the next market day.

As it doth not plainly appear but by the confession of the mother that the said Christopher Locke is guilty of the said offence, he is left to be farther ordered herein by the Ecclesiastical laws.

32. An order made on a reference from the last Sessions being a difference between John Symes and Richard Brangwell, by James Byssie and William Swanton, esquires, the 13th day of April, 1618.

"Finding in our own consciences upon due examination of the said cause according to divers proofs at Brewton on Saturday last" that Richard Brangwell is the very true reputed father of the base child of Anne Stephens, he is to pay eight pence weekly to the overseers of Evercreech.

Anne Stephens, the known mother of the child, shall nourish and breed it up until it shall be able to serve a master.

Both parties to enter into bond to perform this order.

The said Anne Stephens to receive due punishment by whipping as the law requireth. [S.R., xxx, 5.]

33. An order made on the 26th day of January, 15 James [1617-8], by John Maye and Francis Baber, esquires.

John Guillinge, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens of Compton Martin, the said money to be reserved for a stock for the placing of the child.

Agnes Nye, the mother of the child, of Bickfold in Compton Martin, shall keep the child herself without receiving any allowance out of the said stock or otherwise to be burdensome to the said parish, and if she refuse then to pay twelve pence weekly.

Both parties to put in sufficient surety by bond or otherwise for the performance of this order.

For the punishment of the said Agnes Nye, she shall be brought by the overseers and churchwardens to the nearest market town and there be stripped from the neck to the girdle and openly whipped on a market day.

As the reputed father doth not confess the said fact, he is left to be further ordered therein by the Ecclesiastical Laws.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT TAUNTON the 7th, 8th, and 9th days of July, 1618, before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, knts., John Francis, Thomas Southworth, Edward Popham, John Coles, Francis Baber, Christopher Preston, James Bysse, John Symes, Thomas Symcocks, James Clarke, Thomas Windham, and Thomas Brereton, esquires.

1. Thomas Windham, esq., is at this Sessions appointed Treasurer of the Hospitals for the west division, and Edward Barckley, esq., for the east division.

And Christopher Preston and Thomas Symcocks, esquires, to take the account of James Clarke, esq., late Treasurer for the west division.

2. Whereas William Engram, a very old man, hath appealed against an order made by Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., and Robert Cuffe, esq., that he should pay eight pence weekly for the support of the child of Mary Cheade: It is now ordered that he shall pay four pence, and John Hacker, a young man, shall pay four pence of the said sum. Either party refusing to be bound over to the next Sessions. [No. 23.]

3. On a petition by the inhabitants of the town of Evell [Yeovil] that the number of Alehouses doth far exceed that for which they have occasion: Ordered that there shall be only nine allowed within the burrough and two without, and those to be kept by such persons as by Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext, knts., justices for that limit, shall be thought fit; who have likewise order from this Sessions to suppress the others. [S.R., xxx, 59.]

4. Upon complaint of the inhabitants of Durston that of late they have been charged with the payment of 19 shillings and 6 pence towards the relief of the hospitals and maimed soldiers instead of 9 shillings and 9 pence yearly; and that the Constable of North Petherton had from time to time received the same at the hands of the churchwardens of Durston, which overcharge was thought unreasonable, and the more in regard that the parish of North Petherton, being far greater, is charged but with 39 shillings: the Court being desirous to be satisfied how Durston came to be charged double and to ease them of it, do order that Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, knts., and Robert Cuffe, esq., or any two of them shall hear and examine the proofs and allegations, and shall set down such indifferent order for the easing of Durston, and to certify the same at the next Sessions.

5. On a petition from the inhabitants of Stringston that Joane Sage, who for divers years hath lived in service at Stogursey, was on the third day of May delivered of a base child in an outhouse at Stringston, whereof she nominated one Richard Matthew of Stogursey to be the reputed father; and that the said Joane was on her recovery sent by pass to Stogursey where she stayed on a short time, but is now wandering about the country, and doth intend (as they are informed) to return to Stringston: Ordered that the said Joane and her child shall be settled and provided for at Stogursey. [S.R., xxx, 38.]

6. Whereas John Puddy was not long since sent from Huntspill to Wells as a vagrant and from thence sent back again: upon motion made at this present Sessions it is ordered that the consideration of the cause shall be referred unto the next Wells Sessions when the Court will take such order as to justice and law shall appertain. [S.R., xxx, 48.]

7. On a petition from Justian Crosse, late bailiff of Milverton, that during the said office he disbursed 3 pounds 16 shillings and one penny which he cannot receive again of the inhabitants of the said burrough: Referred to Humfry Windham and John Colles, esquires, to examine the said cause, and take such course as they shall think fit. [S.R., xxx, 51.]

8. Whereas the constables and inhabitants of Martock complain that there have been many alehouses lately set up to the great annoyance of the most part of the said inhabitants: Ordered that besides the Inn there shall be only two alehouses to be kept by persons thought fit by Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext, knts. [S.R., xxx, 72.]

9. Ordered by the Bench that the churchwardens and overseers of Wyvelscombe shall make a new rate for the relief of the poor this year, the rate to be tendered to two justices in or near the place for the allowance and confirmation thereof.

10. On a petition by Henry Bulpayne that he hath had great loss by reason of the inundation of the fresh water last year: Ordered that he receive 20 shillings from the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the west division. [S.R., xxx, 49, 50.]

11. Ordered that Richard Russell and his wife shall continue at Philipp's Norton in any house they can procure for their money until the Justices of that limit shall take other course for their settling. [S.R., xxx, 47.]

12. Whereas there was a reference at the last Ivelchester Sessions to Sir Robert Phelipps and Sir Edward Hext, knts., concerning the placing of William Wytherell, where it appeared that he was not lawfully settled at Stoke under Hambdon, where he then was and yet remaineth, whereupon he was ordered to be whipped and sent by pass to Dolishe [Dowlsh] in this county. And now he has married Grace, daughter of John Bushop of Stoke, a very poor man, whereby the parishioners of Stoke are like to be charged with the keeping of the said Wytherell, his wife being with child: Ordered that he and his wife be forthwith sent to Dolishe to be received and settled.

13. On complaint made by the parishioners of Stoke under Hambdon that John Baunton, Thomas Baker, and Thomas Brayne will not maintain their hedges at the hill there, by reason of which the sheep going upon the hill do break into their corn fields to their great hindrance and losses; for which they cannot procure remedy, for that they have not had any court these two or three years last past: Referred to Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., to call before him the said parties, and to order and determine the cause as he shall think fit. [S.R., xxx, 70.]

14. On a petition from Richard Perram of Chew Magna, labourer, that he hath no convenient place where to live or abide, for that he is a maimed soldier: Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., and Francis Baber, esq., to examine the same, and to do therein as to them shall seem most convenient for and concerning the same. [S.R., xxx, 71.]

15. On a petition from the inhabitants of Cheddon that they have so many poor people that they are not well able to relieve them, and therefore desire that some of the parishes near of better ability might be ordered to help and ease them therein: Referred to the nearest Justices to take such course therein as shall seem requisite and wise. [S.R., xxx, 37.]

16. Whereas there is difference between John Hawker of Curry Mallet, husbandman, and Tomsin Lumbard of the same, touching certain monies in his hands, of which he promised to allow the said Tomsin the use of six pounds, and was thereupon discharged of any farther trouble, but now utterly refuseth to give any allowance at all: Referred to Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., and Christopher Preston, esq., to examine the said differences and to do therein as they shall think fit.

17. Whereas certain Hundreds were taxed for the levying of money for the relief of the infected of the plague in the town of Minehed, which money should have been paid over unto the High Constables of every Hundred, but is not as yet fully levied; and whereas one Francis Pearce of the same town, by the appointment of the Justices near adjoining did undertake to victual and provide the necessaries of life for the infected people for which there yet remaineth due and unpaid twenty pounds or thereabouts: Ordered that the Justices of the limits near shall examine all accounts and to certify at the next Sessions what money is uncollected or unjustly delayed by any persons employed for the relief of the said infected people, that farther order may be then taken for the satisfying of the said Francis Pearce.

18. Concerning the matters alleged against Thomas Downe of Charlton Horethorne [Wells, 1618; No. 17]: Sir George Speke, knt., and James Bysse, esq., do certify that at one only time a man was found drunk upon a Sunday, for which the man was punished according to the Statute (but not proven that he was made drunk in Downe's house), and some others found drinking on another Sunday, both which offences were committed long

sithence ; that the house stood remote, and that there was one inn and one other alehouse in the town of Charlton ; that the said Downe had brought a certificate subscribed by the most of the inhabitants that he hath ever lived orderly and kept his house in good order, and always used the poor people well in his measure and in uttering good and wholesome beer, while the other alehouse keeper being a very poor man is not always well supplied : Ordered that the said Thomas Downe be continued a tippler for this year, and to take a licence from the Court, and so after as he shall behave himself.

19. Whereas Roger Osborne, blacksmith, hath lately come to Taunton with a great charge of children, and hath set up a forge in the market place near the house of Robert Moggridge, to the nuisance and damage of his neighbours : Ordered that he shall forthwith pull down the said forge, and also give good security before the third day of August next for the discharging of his said charge of children, or else to be sent to Cardiff from whence he came.

20. Whereas Thomas Lambert *als.* Wilkins was bound over by Robert Wright, D.D., to Ivelchester Sessions and continued to this present Sessions, because he is accused by Mary Collins to be the reputed father of her base child, and the said Lambert goeth about to prove John Collins, father of the said Mary Collins, to be the father of the said child : Referred to Robert Wright, D.D., and Thomas Southworth, esq., to hear and take such course as shall seem requisite ; and in the meantime Lambert to be discharged of his appearance at the Sessions.

21. Order made by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Thomas Symcocks, esq., the 20th day of June, 1618.

William Creese, of Puddimore Milton, husbandman, the father of Mary Walter, the base child of Ellinor Walter, spinster of the same place, who is now dead, shall pay one shilling weekly for the support of the same, and shall be bound with sufficient sureties in the sum of twenty pounds, or else to take the child and free the parish of any charge that may grow unto them thereby. [*S.R.*, xxx, 68.]

22. Order made by Sir George Speke, knt., and Christopher Preston, esq., the 25th day of April, 1618.

John Hill of Ludney in the parish of Kingston [Kingstone nr. Ilminster], labourer, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly for the maintenance of the child, and become bound for the performance of this order.

Katherine Whittenole of Kingston, the mother of the child, shall by her own industry maintain the child so far as she shall be able. [S.R., xxx, 67.]

23. Order made by Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., and Robert Cuffe, esq., the 16th day of February, 1617-8.

William Engram of Durston, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly for the relief of the child, and shall be bound with sufficient securities in twenty pounds for the discharge of the obligation.

Mary Cheade, the mother of the child, shall keep, educate, and maintain the same; and if she refuse, being well able to do so, she shall immediately be conveyed to the House of Correction. And for her offence herein she shall be well whipped at Durston from the girdle upwards until her body be bloody. [See No. 2 of this Sessions, S.R., xxx, 66.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT BRIDGWATER on the 15th, 16th, and 17th days of September, 16 James [1618], before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir John Windham, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, knts., Thomas Southworth, George Luttrell, Edward Rogers, John Maye, Hugh Pyne, Edward Popham, John Symes, James Bisse, Robert Cuffe, Thomas Brereton, James Clarke, and Thomas Windham, esquires.

1. Ordered that the parishioners of Donyhead [Downhead] shall provide a house for Phillipp Humfris to dwell in, according to the order made at Wells Sessions last twelvemonth [No. 18,

Wells 1616-7], or show cause to the contrary at the next Sessions.

2. Whereas the cause between John Hawker and Thomasine Lumbard [Taunton, 1618, No. 16] was referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, knt., and Christopher Preston, esq., who bound over the said Hawker to this Sessions for some contempt in the same: The cause is now referred to Hugh Pyne, esq., who is to set down an order therein, and if the said Hawker do refuse to perform the same, to bind him over to the next Sessions.

3. Ordered that the cause of bastardy between Thomas Baker and Mary Anstice be referred to John Symes and Christopher Preston, esquires, to examine who is the father of the child, and to take requisite order therein.

4. Ordered that the cause of bastardy alleged by Charity Smocke against Thomas Shalder be referred to John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires, who are to take such order therein, as well for the whipping of the said Shalder (if they shall think fit) as shall seem requisite.

5. Ordered that all issues by the several Hundreds and Boroughs on which there are now process upon an indictment for not repairing of Fleet bridge shall be stayed and not estreated.

6. Ordered that all issues against the parishioners of Hillfarrance on which there are now process for not repairing of the highway shall be stayed and not estreated.

7. Ordered that if any Justice of Peace within this County shall grant any licence for keeping of tippling [houses] in any other Justice's liberty or limit, that the same licence shall be suppressed and made void.

8. Whereas heretofore on complaint made of abuses committed in the warrens of Cothelstone and elsewhere in the western division, a warrant was granted by certain justices of

taking of hayes [*i.e.* nets], ferrets, and dogs of such as have offended ; and whereas the said warrant hath remained dormant for six years, but hath now been executed upon Thomas Milton, of West Bagborough, without cause as he pretendeth : Ordered that John Symes, esq., shall examine the whole state of this cause, and certify his proceedings therein at the next General Sessions.

9. On a petition of David Shutter touching certain money in the hands of Mr. John Mallett as executor of his brother Bawden Mallett : Order that Mr. Mallett shall repay the money ; and if he shall refuse to do so, then Shutter shall repair to some Justice of the Peace, who shall bind Mr. Mallett over to the next Sessions, unless he can show good cause to the contrary. [S.R., xxx, 94.]

10. Henry Cotterell having as a maimed soldier a pension of four marks, has now taken in lieu and discharge of the said pension the sum of six pounds. [S.R., xxx, 92, is his petition to the King, with an order from the Court at Theobald, 22 June, 1618, endorsed thereon. No. 93.]

Robt. Phelipps. Nich. Halswell. Francis Hele. John Maye. John Symes. Hugh Pyne.

11. Ordered that William Clu be suppressed in Langport, and a warrant of the good behaviour granted against him.

12. Ordered that [] Sweet of Martock be suppressed, and a warrant of the good behaviour granted against him with sureties of five pounds "in subsidy (men) of the last subsidy."

13. Order made at Taunton the 15th day of July, 1618, by John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires.

Whereas by the examination of divers witnesses and by vehement suspicions it appeared that John Haine of Long Sutton, husbandman, is the reputed father of the child of Anne Chillcott, late of Milverton ; and that after the birth of the child at North Curry, the mother went to Long Sutton and left her child there, and hath fled away, and cannot be apprehended ; whereupon the reputed father not being then known, the child

was returned to North Curry to the great charge of the inhabitants there: We do now order the said John Hayne to pay forty-seven shillings to the overseers of North Curry, and to take away the said child and keep it himself. [S.R., xxx, 99.]

14. Order made by Sir Robert Phelippes and Sir Edward Hext, knts., the 10th day of September, 1618.

John Randall of Odcombe, husbandman, the reputed father, is to pay eight pence weekly unless he shall otherwise sufficiently discharge the said parish of the child.

Elizabeth Knight, the mother of the child, shall always keep and bring it up. [S.R., xxx, 100.]

15. Order made by Sir Thomas Drewe, knt., and William Wallrond, esq., of Devonshire, the fourth day of September, 1618.

Robert Rainsbury of Stawley, weaver, the father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens of Cleyhidon in co. Devon until the child shall be seven years old.

Agnes Brenfeild, the mother, shall receive the said money and shall supply all other charges and maintenance of the said child. And for her punishment shall receive whipping the next market day at Cullompton in the open view of the congregation then and there assembled. [S.R., xxx, 74, 101.]

16. Order made by Humfry Wyndham and John Coles, esquires, at Wivelescombe the third of September, 1618.

John Combeare, the father, shall forthwith pay to Agnes Jeffery of Wellington, the mother of the child, sixpence for each week since the birth of the child for that he hath not paid nor given anything. And shall henceforth pay seven pence until the child shall get her own living.

The said payment shall be given to the said Agnes Jeffery so long as she shall keep the child, or in default pay six pence weekly. And for her punishment she shall be openly whipped in Wellington on a market day within one month. [S.R., xxx, 102.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS on the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th days of January 16 James [1618-9], before the Reverend Father in Christ Arthur [Lake] Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Francis Popham, Sir Hugh Smith, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir Robert Philippes, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Barkeley, Sir Francis Hele, and Sir James Kirton, knights, Robert Wright, D.D., Gerard Wood, D.D., Thomas Southworth, Robert Hopton, John Maye, Francis Baber, James Bisse, Nathanael Still, Hugh Pyne, Robert Cuffe, Joseph Rattle, John Merefield, and Edward Taynt [Tynte], esquires.

1. Ordered that the Justices shall call the Constables of every Hundred within their several limits to a perfect account what they have done touching the order made for the levying of the money for the Muster master ; and that the Justices do take present course for the payment of the money already levied, and for the collecting of the residue ; and that such persons as refuse shall be bound over to the next Sessions to answer their contempt.

2. Ordered that Sir John Horner, knt., Robert Hopton, Francis Baber, and William Capell, esquires, shall examine the differences between the parishioners of Emborowe and John Marchant and his mother, to order and determine the same, certifying their doings therein to the next Sessions.

3. Confirmation of a former order giving permission to Timothy Sellwood of Brislington, by the consent of the parishioners and of the lord of the manor, to erect a house with half an acre of land adjoining. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 18.]

4. In consideration of his losse from fire, George Mills is to receive fifty shillings from the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the western division. [S.R., iv, 112, *ante.*]

5. According to a former order [Wells 1617-8, No. 2], touching the answering of all letters, proclamations, and such like, from the Lords of the Privy Council, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Barkeley, knts., and Matthew Ewens, esq., are appointed for the east division; and Sir George Speke, Sir Edward Hext, knts., and Thomas Brereton, esq., for the west division.

6. Whereas at the last Wells Sessions [1617-8, No. 19], the difference between the parishioners of Pitcombe and Humfry Langier was referred to two Justices, and an order made. But the said order being lost, the said Humfry refuseth to perform the same. It is therefore referred to Sir Henry Barkeley, knt., and James Bisse, esq., to order the same according to their discretions; and if the said Humfry refuseth to perform the same, then to bind him over to the next Sessions to answer for his contempt.

7. On consideration of the difference between the parishioners of Compton Martin and of Blagdon touching the settling of William Norvale and Mary his wife, who were last settled in Blagdon for two years: Ordered that they be received and provided for at that place.

8. On a motion by Richard Gregory concerning some lewd practise and behaviour that one Henry Ley of Wellington should attempt with one William Michell of the same, labourer, against the said Gregory: Referred to Humfry Wyndham and John Coles, esquires, to examine and to certify their doings therein at the next Sessions.

9. The settling of Richard Wills is referred to Sir Robert Phelippes, knt.

10. Ordered that the money for the repairing of Heale bridge shall be paid according to the former order therein heretofore made.

11. On complaint by the parishioners of Keynsham it is ordered that Elizabeth Zealy of Hutton, whose child was born at Keynsham while she was travelling that way, shall be forthwith sent to Hutton where the child was begotten.

12. According to a former order William Witherell shall be settled at Dolishe [Dowlish], and if a denial be made of the receipt of them there, the offenders are to be bound over to the next Sessions. Farther desired that Sir Robert Phelippes, knt., will examine whether Stephen Clarcke of Norton subter Hambdon with his family shall be settled, and to make an order. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 22.]

13. On a petition preferred in the names of the lord and the tenants of Upton, Hugh Aishe, an honest painfull labouring poor man with charge of wife and children, has license for his cottage lately builded to remain, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 32, 33.]

14. The difference between Thomas Day and Christopher Latcham, touching a bond now in the hands of the said Latcham, is referred to John Maye, esq., who is to determine the same if he can. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 36.]

15. On the petition of John Griffen of Lottisham's Green in the parish of Dichett, cordwainer, a very poor man with a wife and five children, license is granted him to build a cottage on the waste of John Cooper, who is seised in fee of certain lands there though there be not four acres of land, provided he obtain leave of the said John Cooper and of the parishioners of Dichett. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 4.]

16. On the petition of John Banwell of Stowey, a license is granted on the same terms as above. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 21.]

17. Upon hearing of the cause of bastardy now in difference between William Moore and Thomas Willmott *als.* Bowltridge []: ordered that Moore pay weekly six pence and Willmott two pence for the relief of the child of Elizabeth Robbins.

18. Touching the house for keeping the records.

Be it known that through the great care and charge of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this County, a strong and convenient room adjoining to the Cathedral Church of Wells, by the consent of the Dean and Chapter there, is provided for the safe keeping of the Indictments, Inrollment of deeds, and other Records of the Sessions of this County, there to remain for ever hereafter, whosoever shall happen to be Clerk of the Peace, to the intent that such records may be extant hereafter upon all occasions at all times; and that any purchaser of lands may (if they please) with more ease and less charge than in other offices inroll their conveyances in this county being acknowledged before any the Justices and the Clerk of the Peace of this county according to the Statute in that behalf, the Inrolment thereof to be safely kept in the safe room.

19. Two Justices to view the same house every year to see the placing of the records.

Forasmuch as Sir James Ley, *knt.*, Custos Rotulorum of this County and other his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this County have heretofore procured a room of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Wells adjoining to the same Church for the safe custody of the records of the Sessions of this County; and the same room at the charge of this County is made fit and convenient for the same purpose, and the records accordingly therein placed: it is now thought fit that two Justices shall view the said room whether the records are well disposed of in the same; and that the Clerk of the Peace at all times hereafter for the time being shall forthwith after the inrolment of any deed bring the same inrolment into the same room; And also all other records of the Sessions as soon as the same become out of use there, to remain in the same room to be extant upon all occasions and all times: And it is desired that two of the Justices, to be appointed every Sessions to be holden at Wells for the better preservation and safe keeping of the said records, will from time to time and at all times hereafter examine the due and honest performance by the Clerk of the Peace for the time being; Lastly it is ordered that

this order shall be published and made known for the good of the Country.

[S.R., xxx, 108, is the draft order for collecting 24*li*, the cost of fitting up the room. The matter was first mooted at the Wells Sessions, 14 James, 1616-7.]

20. Whereas there is a difference between the inhabitants of Evererich and the tithing of Chesterblade touching the payment of the hospital and maimed soldiers' money and other tithing rates, hitherto paid according to an indifferent tithing rate, but now refused by the inhabitants of Chesterblade: Referred to Sir Henry Barkeley, knt., and Robert Hopton, esq., to examine parties on either side, and to make an order. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 35.]

21. Whereas James Edwards was taken as a vagrant and wandering person in Stokelane [*i.e.*, Stoke St. Michael], and after punishment sent to Hinton Mary in Dorset, where he was born, but was sent back to Stokelane, and being returned again, the inhabitants of Hinton procured an order from a General Sessions of Dorset for the removal back again of the said Edwards: Ordered on complaint of the inhabitants of Stoke-lane that the said Edwards be sent back to Hinton Mary for that by law he ought to be there settled and provided for. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 9, 11.]

22. On a petition from most of the inhabitants of Worle that there are two alehouses "where they allege there needeth not any," and that there is very much disorder, and many great abuses and wrongs done in them, to the great disturbance, charge and loss of the inhabitants of Worle, who now desire that the said two alehouses might be suppressed: ordered that the two houses shall accordingly be suppressed and put down, and the licenses, if they have any, taken from the owners. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 1.]

23. Whereas Humfry Wootten, gent., by his last will did give 3 pounds, 6*s*., and 8 pence to remain for ever as a stock in

the hands of the overseers for the poor of Rympton, to be employed for their benefit and use ; and whereas William Payne, one of the overseers for the last year, received the money but utterly refuseth to give any benefit or allowance ; and the overseers for this year also give forth speeches that they will not allow anything out of the increase, so that the poor are not like to have the benefit, but the overseers will make a gain thereof contrary to the will : Desired by the court that Sir Robert Phelippes, knt., will call the parties before him, and take such course as shall to him seem requisite and fit. [*S.R.*, xxxii, ii, 23.]

24. Certificate of John Symes, esq., dated the 11th of January, 1618-9, concerning the complaint of Thomas Milton [Bridgwater Sess. 1618, No. 8.]

The warrant was granted about four years last past, and executed about a year last past by the said Thomas Drake and others upon John Nation of Cothellstone, husbandman, who was then taking of conies in his own grounds with hayes [*i.e.*, nets], which were proved to be the property of the said Thomas Milton, and lent by him to Nation ; whereupon the said hayes were forthwith delivered by the said Drake to the said Milton in the presence of Mr. Symes. [*S.R.*, xxxii, ii, 15, 16.]

25. Report of John Symes and Christopher Preston, esquires, concerning a case of disputed paternity referred to them at the last Bridgwater Sessions [1618, No. 3], made at Chard 11th Jan., 1618-9.

That William Wrench is the father of the child of Mary Anstice, and that Thomas Baker was falsely accused. [*S.R.*, xxxii, ii, 13.]

26. Order made by John Maye, Joseph Rattle, and William Capell, esquires, the 16th August, 1618.

Robert Borowe of Bytsham [Biddisham] shall pay eight pence weekly to be used for the relief of the child, and for a stock to set him out ; and shall put in sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Margaret Daye, late of Bytsham, the mother of the child, is now deceased,

Robert Borowe is to be censured by the Ecclesiastical Laws. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 12.]

27. Order made by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Hugh Pyne, esq., the 28th of December, 1618.

George Rodbert of Borrowe in the parish of Kingsbury, husbandman, the father of Mary, daughter of Cicily Podger of Hambridge, in the parish of Curry Revell, shall pay ten pence weekly for the support of the child until it shall be twelve years of age; and shall be bound with sufficient sureties in twenty pounds for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 14.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT IVELCHESTER the 6th, 7th, and 8th days of April, 1619, before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Henry Barckley, knts., John Powlett, Thomas Southworth, John Symes, Hugh Pyne, James Byssse, Christopher Preston, John Merefeild, Matthew Ewens, James Farewell, and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

1. Ordered that Elizabeth Craste and her child shall be settled at Milborne Port, where she was settled for four years, although the child was born and the mother church'd at Somerton, as they will answer the contrary at their peril.

2. Ordered that the money for Heale bridge shall be presently brought in and paid, according to the former order therein made by all the constables of the hundreds that are behind for the same, upon notice of this order at their peril. Published in open court.

3. Ordered upon complaint of Joane, the wife of Andrew Milles, now prisoner in Ivelchester gaol, that the overseers of Stowell shall take his "living" [*i.e.*, holding] into their hands, and to manure it, and to give the said Andrew sufficient maintenance and the residue to his wife and children,

4. Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., and Francis Baber, esq., to make an order for the maintenance of Elizabeth Taunton's child, whereof Robert Forde is the reputed father.

5. The appeal of James Clegg from an order made on him as the reputed father of the child of Agnes Chilcott is deferred to the next Sessions.

6. Referred to Sir Edward Hext and Mr. Thos. Symcockes to order the differences between Mr. William Bull of Wells and Mr. Walton of Shapwick.

7. William Longe sworn at this Sessions constable for this year next ensuing for Tintinhull hundred.

8. Whereas there have been several orders made concerning the manor of Draycott, and all the parties concerned were not present at this Sessions: The question is referred to Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, and Sir Henry Barkley, knts., and Matthew Ewens, esq., or any three of them, to examine and certify at the next Sessions their proceedings; and also to examine in what hundred Hescombe is.

9. Whereas at the last Ivelchester Sessions, 16 James [1618, No. 6] the difference concerning the highways at Broadmerston [Marston Magna] was referred to James Bysse and William Swanton, esquires, and Mr. Swanton is now dead before settling the difference: It is now referred to Sir Henry Barkley, knt., and James Bysse, esq. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 64.]

10. James, son of William Spencer of Draycott, is discharged of his apprenticeship with John Peers, late of Cardeiffe in Glamorganshire, feltmaker, who hath gone out of the country. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 69, 70.]

11. On the petition of the inhabitants of Milborne Port, that some have received certain inmates there, who are very likely to be much chargeable to the said parish: Referred to Sir Henry

Barkley, knt., and Matthew Ewens, esq., to examine the cause, and to take order therein at their discretions. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 60.]

12. Ordered that all the inhabitants of the parish of Shepton Mallett shall from henceforth watch the beacon of Rybery, and join now in the reparations of the same beacon, even as all other parishioners or inhabitants of liberties do now or heretofore have done. And that every person refusing shall answer for their contempt at the next Sessions.

13. On the petition of Thomas Howse that he hath lived at Cheddar for a year and a half as the under-tenant of William Boole, and hath paid his rent when due ; yet, notwithstanding, the said Boole hath forcibly broke into his house on the last day of March last past, and doth detain it with his goods : Referred to Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and John Maye, esq., to examine the cause, and to take order not only for the delivery of the goods, but also for the settling of the petitioner and his wife. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 61.]

14. Order made the 7th April, 1619, by Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., and John Merrifeild, esq.

John Annsell *als.* Channler of Stockwood in Dorset, yeoman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence every Sunday after Evening prayer to the churchwardens of Yevill, until the child be twelve years of age ; and also be bound in twenty pounds with two sufficient securities.

Judith Abbot of Yevill, the mother of the child, shall keep it or pay in default six pence weekly.

15. Order made the 30th day of [] 1619, by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq.

Francis Gillet of Curryrevell, the reputed father, shall pay four pence weekly until the child is twelve years of age, and enter into bond for the performance of this order.

Alice Peeters of Curryrevell, the mother of the child, shall for her offence be whipped in Langport on market day.

16. Order made at Nettlecombe the 5th April, 1619, by Sir John Windham, knt., John Trevelyan and Thomas Windham, esquires.

John Bacon, the reputed father, shall take and maintain the child, and put in sufficient security to save the parish of Stogumber harmless.

Frances Baker, of the same place, the mother, is committed to the House of Correction for one whole year according to the statute made 7 James [I].

17. Order made the 31st March, 1619, by Sir Francis Hele, knt., and Edward Rogers, esq.

Thomas Dudderidge of Overstowey, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens of Overstowey, and within ten days put in sufficient security for the performance of this order.

Margaret Stamford of Overstowey shall keep her child Salathiel; and for a punishment shall be whipped by the constable or tithingman of Overstowey aforesaid.

18. Order made the 27th January, 1618-9, by John Trevelian and Thomas Windham, esquires.

George Burgesse of Winsford, the reputed father, shall pay three pence weekly, and give security for the payment, or in default be committed to the Ilchester gaol, there to remain until he shall willingly do the same.

Elizabeth Sulley of Winsford shall keep the child herself, and put in security for the discharge of the said parish, or if she refuse, to be sent to the House of Correction.

19. Order made by Sir John Windham, knt., John Trevelian and Thomas Windham, esquires, the 24th of March, 1618-9.

George Hill, the reputed father, shall pay at the rate of fourteen pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers of Dulverton, where the child was born and now is, and a similar sum weekly until it be bound an apprentice. This payment is in some relief but not in full discharge of the said parish, because the parishioners suffered Christian Denner of Skilgate, the mother, to escape, never seeking to have any order, albeit

they know her to be poor and a wanderer abroad long before she came to Dulverton.

20. Order made at Midsomer Norton the 30th March, 1619, on the reference of certain matters. [Order No. 2, Wells Sessions, 1618-9.]

Upon the examination of the differences between the parishioners of Enborrow and James Haiball and Margaret his wife, and of divers witnesses, it is found that divers incumbrances have happened to the said parish by reason of children born in their house by sundry incumbrances to the said parish, as also the unfit repair to the house by sundry strangers from remote parts, and of a child lately born there, of which Johane Clarke, their covenant servant, is the mother, and Thomas Worthington is the father, who hath fled out of the country; and whereas Margaret Haiball had the government of the house, her husband living at Wells, and hath promised three pounds for the discharge of the parish of the last base child. We do order that the said James Haiball do pay to the overseers of Enborrow, three pounds six shillings at once and fourteen shillings more at Michaelmas; that Thomas Worthington, as soon as he shall be found, shall pay twelve pence weekly to the overseers, who shall out of this payment repay the money to Haiball.

The said Johane Clark keep her child herself and shall be whipped by the tithyngman or his deputy. Thomas Worthington is left to the censure of the ecclesiastical laws.

John Horner, Robert Hopton, Francis Baber, William Capell. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 2: petition against Hayball's house; xxx, ii, 48, 75.]

21. Order made by John Poulett and John Merrifeild, the 5th of April, 17 James [1619].

William Bowden of Dinnington, baker, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly, and give good security to the overseers of Georgehinton [Hinton St. George], for the performance of this order.

Johane Serchwell, the mother, shall keep and maintain her child until it be apprenticed or able to get her own living.

22. Order made by John Trevelian and Thomas Windham, esquires, the 2nd of December, 1618.

John Wrentmore of Wiveliscombe, the reputed father, shall pay seven pence weekly to the overseers of Luxborrow, and give good security, or in default be committed to the common gaol.

Johane Bickham, the mother, shall be sent to the House of Correction at Taunton for one year.

23. Order made at Wiveliscombe the 31st of March, 1619, by Humfry Wyndham and John Colles, esquires.

On the evidence of the midwife, constable and overseers of Milverton that Agnes Chilcott did charge James Clagge of Lymmington to be the father of her child, he was warned to attend for the clearing of himself, but did not come and the messenger was greatly abused. He was therefore ordered to pay nine pence weekly, and Agnes Chilcott was committed to the House of Correction. [No. 5.]

Agnes Chilcott hath upon her oath freed James Clagge before the whole bench at Ivelchester.

24. With regard to the petition from Weston Bampfieild [Ilchester Sess., 1618, No. 7.], it is ordered that Raynoll Hillard and others, having in their hands the money of Henry Martins, a lunatic, shall enter into bond with one surety with the overseers of the said parish for the payment of the said money six months after the date of the said bonds, paying interest at the rate of ten pounds in the hundred per annum every six months; and the overseers to employ the said interest towards the maintenance of the said Henry Martins.

25. On the complaint of the parishioners of Bawdrip that certain parishioners do refuse to repair the causeway between the east gate of Bridgwater and Cranebridge according to an order made at the Ivelchester Sessions, 12 James [1614, No. 5]: Ordered that those refusing shall be bound over by any Justice of the Peace to answer for their contempt at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxii, i, 9.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT TAUNTON on the 29th and 30th days of June and the 1st of July, 17 James [1619], before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, and Sir Edward Rodney, knts., Thomas Southworth, John Symes, John Maye, Robert Cuffe, Thomas Brereton, James Clarke, Thomas Windham, and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

1. On complaint by the overseers of Chewton that there are many cottages lately built there: Ordered that none shall be allowed to be erected without the consent of the lords of the manor and the parishioners with confirmation thereof in open court. [S.R., xxxii, i, 1, 2, 3, 4.]

2. As it appeareth by a letter from the Lords of the Council as by the knowledge of the Justices that Captain Francis Kirton hath performed many great and worthy services in the wars both in the realm of England, the Low Countries and elsewhere, and hath received many wounds and is maimed in his right arm: Ordered that he receive a yearly pension of twenty pounds by quarterly payments, to begin at this Session. [S.R., xxxii, i, 13.]

Nich. Halswell, Edward Rodney, John Symes, John May, Ja. Clarke, Robert Cuffe, Marmaduke Jennings. [S.R., xxxii, i, 7. The letter bears the autographs of G. Cant. Fr. Verulam Canc., E. Worcester, Pembroke, T. Arundel, H. Southampton, J. Digbye, Geo. Calvert, G. Carew, T. Edmondes, J. Cary, Robert Naunton, Jul. Cæsar.]

3. It is now ordered that the former orders concerning the repairs of the causeway between the east gate of Bridgwater and Cranebridge shall be frustrated and made void, as after hearing of both parties, it doth appear that the inhabitants of Bridgwater and Bawdripp ought to repair the said causeway. [Ilchester, 1614, No. 5; Ilch. 1619, No. 25, S.R., xxxii, i, 9.]

4. Frances Baker of Stogumber is discharged from the House of Correction, on giving bond to John Bacon to pay twelve shillings yearly towards the maintenance of their child. [Ilchester Sess. 1619, No. 16, S.R., xxxii, i. 51.]

5. Referred to Sir George Speake, John Powlett, and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, to enquire into the differences between Will. Duncke *als.* Hellier, and John Hobman, and to certify their doings at the next Sessions.

6. Margaret Legge, having become an idiot, and having other infirmities, is discharged from her apprenticeship with Gabriel Westover and Joan, his wife, who are to pay thirty shillings to the overseers of the parish in Taunton where the said Margaret, as being her birthplace, is to be provided for. [S.R., xxxii, i. 21.]

7. On a certificate from Nicholas Sydenham, gent., lord of the manor of Langford Budvile, that he hath given leave to the churchwardens and overseers to erect a house for the relief of the poor there upon the waste of the said manor: Ordered that the house may be built, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxxii, i. 10.]

8. Whereas at the last Ilchester Sessions James Hayball's tippling house at Greenwoore was advised to be suppressed; and the said Hayball hath in contempt let the house to John Helpes, who maintaineth tippling in the said house: Ordered that the house be suppressed, and that a warrant of the good behaviour be made against the inhabitants of the said house. [S.R., xxxii, i. 8.]

9. Whereas there is a difference between the parishioners of Stanton Prior and William Richmand touching a house began to be built for the relief of the poor with the consent of most of the parishioners: It is referred to Sir Thomas Bridges, John May, Thomas Southworth, and Francis Baber, esquires, or any two of them, to examine and set down an order, finding in whose land the house is built. [S.R., xxxii, i. 12.]

10. Report by Sir Henry Barkleigh and Matthew Ewens, esq., that they find that Arthur Hide of Milborne Port is of good report and ready to take his oath that he is innocent, and that the woman, Johan Holway, by the course of her life appeareth to be of no credit ; but that they leave the matter to the better judgments of the Bench ; 28th June, 1619. [S.R., xxxii, ii, 30.]

11. Richard Davis, esq., to be Treasurer of the hospitals for the east division, and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., for the west. Robert Cuffe and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, to take the account of the old treasurers.

12. After hearing the appeal of James Clegg [Ilch. Sess. 1619, Nos. 5, 23], the order heretofore made shall be in all points void and of none effect ; and that Thomas Milton shall pay six pence weekly and Agnes Chilcott three pence for the support of the child.

13. The recognizance of Pyke is respited to the next Sessions, as he did not appear here after he was bound by Sir Robert Phelipps.

14. Michael Webber is discharged of his apprenticeship to John Stybbes, who is run out of the country, and is at liberty to serve any other man.

15. If the executors of Robert Band [Baund] do refuse to pay to Francis Pearce of Mynehead the sum of twelve pounds sixteen shillings and nine pence, being what was left in his hands after building the pest house and victualling the infected people there, as appeareth by the certificate of John Trevelyan and Thomas Windham, esquires, the parties are to be bound to the next Sessions to answer their refusal. [Taunton Sess. 1618, No. 17 ; S.R., xxxii, i, 32.]

16. Order made at Taunton the 23rd of June, 1619, by John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires.

Robert Whitehead of North Curry, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly, of which part is for the

relief and education and part for a stock towards the placing of the child. And he shall also enter into bond with security for the performance of this order.

Agnes Yeard, the mother, shall keep the child, having such contribution from the said payment as shall be thought fit. [S.R., xxxii, i, 33.]

17. Order made at Ilmister the 14th of April, 1619, by Sir George Speke, John Powlett, and Thomas Phillippes.

George Humfry of Sevington, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly for the support of the male child of Margaret Edmonds of the same place, until it be bound apprentice. [S.R., xxxii, i, 34.]

18. Order made the 28th June, 1619, by Sir Robert Phillippes and Sir Edward Hext, knts.

William Brodford *als.* Bayley of Puddimore Milton, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly to the overseers of Long Sutton for the support of the child (until he shall take the same) of Mary Clarke of Long Sutton ; and shall enter into bond of twenty pounds to perform this order. [S.R., xxxii, i, 35.]

19. The examination of the cause now in question between Chedder and Henton Blewett *als.* Colde Henton, touching the settling of Thomas Howse and Dorothy, his wife, is referred to Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and John May, esq., to determine the same, or to certify their opinions at the next Sessions.

20. The examination of the cause now in question between Pitney and Long Sutton, touching the settling of William Feilde, with his wife and children, is to be tried at the next Sessions. In the meantime Feilde to remain with them at Pitney, or else pay six pence weekly towards their relief, and Pitney men to receive him.

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT BRIDGWATER the 14th, 15th and 16th days of September, 17 James (1619), before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Robert Phelippes, Sir Edward Rodney, knts., Robert Wrighte, D.D., Thomas Southworth, Edward Rogers, George Luttrell, John Maye, John Symes, Hugh Pyne, Christopher Preston, Robert Cuffe, James Clercke, Thomas Wyndham, Thomas Brereton, Marmaduke Jennings, Edward Tynte, John Merefeilde, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. The quarter's pension due to [] Webb of Kainsham as a maimed soldier is to be detained until the next Wells Sessions, when if Sir Thomas Bridges and Mr. Baber, or either of them, shall certify that he hath committed such misdemeanours and contempts of which he is accused, the pension shall be wholly taken from him.

2. Although the Justices deny to grant and allow Richard Corbett any pension out of the maimed soldier's stock, for that they cannot find that he hath any way deserved the same ; yet in respect of his poverty twenty shillings is to be paid to him to bring him out of the country.

3. Referred to Sir Thomas Bridges and Sir John Horner, knts., Robert Hopton and William Capelle, esquires, or any two of them, to examine the causes alleged by the parishioners of Empborowe [Emborough] against John Hillppes, who, with his wife and family, is lately come into a house at Greenwore within the said parish ; and if the house shall continue for habitation, yea or no, and if the man and his family shall continue there or not. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 3.]

4. Referred to Robert Hopton and James Farwell, esquires, to order and determine the differences between Henry Smart and his wife, if they can, and to bind over either of them that refuse to perform the order.

5. Ordered that all the Treasurers of the hospital and maimed soldiers' money that are in "arrerages" shall be called to an account what monies they have in their hands, and that their accounts shall be from henceforth kept with the records of the Sessions, that the Justices may still know what money is in the stock at all times.

6. On the certificate of the right worshipful Robert Wrighte, D.D., canon residentiary of Wells, that Thomas Androwes hath leave of the Dean and Chapter to build a house on the west of their manor of Knapp in North Curry ; and also upon the request of divers parishioners the said Thomas Androwes hath licence to build a house, though there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xxxii, i, 47.]

7. Whereas the parishioners of Pitney have appeared and have failed to prove that William Feild with his wife and family ought to be relieved at Long Sutton [Taunton Sess. 1619, No. 20]: It is ordered that they shall continue at Pitney; and further that the said Feild shall pay four pence every week to the overseers until he shall keep his eldest child at his own charge. [S.R., xxxii, i, 55.]

8. Referred to Sir Francis Hele, knt., and Robert Cuffe, Esq., to examine the particulars of a letter written to the said Sir Francis Hele, touching Christopher Smalland, and to make a certificate at the next Sessions.

9. On a petition from William Davies, Clerke, William Masters, Richard Stevens and Dorothy his wife, a warrant of the good behaviour shall be awarded against Richard Newman of Wrentage [in North Curry] and all proceedings on an indictment preferred by the said Newman against the said petitioners shall be stayed until he be apprehended to answer what was informed against him at this Sessions. [S.R., xxxii, i, 53.]

10. On a certificate and personal information of Sir Edward Rodney and John Maye, esq., it is ordered that Thomas Howse and his wife shall be conveyed to Henton Blewett, *als.* Colde

Henton, there to betake and set themselves to labour according to the law. [Taunton Sess. 1619, No. 19 ; S.R., xxxii, i, 52.]

11. On a petition of John Mountyer, that whereas he hath been married and settled at Milton Cleveden for two years last past, the inhabitants there now go about to put him out of his house: Ordered that he shall quietly continue there, unless the inhabitants show good cause to the contrary at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxii, i, 59.]

12. Sir Edward Rodney, knt., is elected Treasurer for the maimed soldiers for this year to come.

13. At this Sessions it is agreed upon that the composition shall hold for this county, and that in every limit special care shall be taken by the Justices in their several divisions that there be order taken for indifferent rates to be set on every man according to his means and estate, and that on complaint made by any that find themselves aggrieved, there be redress had by the Justices of the limit, and that no ancient prescription hold against the rule of discretion and good conscience.

14. Referred to John Coles and Edward Lancaster, esquires, to examine the misdemeanours supposed to be committed by William Robbins, late deputy clerk of the market in the Milverton and adjacent hundreds, and to certify what they find at the next Sessions.

15. Order made the 16th August, 1619, by Sir Thomas Bridges, knt., and Francis Baber, esq.

Robert Ford of Kaynsham, tanner, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly ; and Elizabeth Taunton, the mother, shall keep the child without receiving any allowance, or in default pay six pence weekly. Both parties to put in sufficient assurance for the performance of this order. And whereas it appeared at the examination of the cause that there were diverse motions of marriage between the parties, and that they have received punishment by the ecclesiastical laws, corporal punishment of the said Elizabeth is foreborn. [S.R., xxxii, i, 46, 75.]

16. Order made at Minehead the 2nd August, 1619, by George Luttrell, John Trevilian, and Thomas Wyndham, esquires.

Whereas Andrew Strong, late of Sellworthie, carpenter, is the reputed father, and Joan Hopkins, the mother, has been conveyed to Wales before she could have any punishment, and the parishioners of Sellworthie are now willing to accept of some reasonable matter from the said Andrew towards the relief of the child in respect of his poverty, hoping he will prove an honest man hereafter ; he is ordered to pay six pence weekly, and give good security for the same. And the said Joan Hopkins on her apprehension be committed to the House of Correction to receive such condign punishment as the law prescribeth. [S.R., xxxii, i, 45.]

17. Order made the 11th September, 1619, by Sir James Kyrton, knt., and James Farwell, esq.

Nicholas Rogers the younger, of Stony Stoke, weaver, the reputed father, shall pay to the churchwardens, etc., of Cucklington, ten pence weekly. Susan Marshe, the mother, to receive the money and keep the child, or on refusal to pay four pence weekly. And for good causes shown to us, William Pearce of Galhampton, weaver, shall also pay four pence weekly for the relief of the said child. William Pearce and Nicholas Rogers to give good security for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxii, i, 44.]

18. Order made by Sir George Speke and Sir Thomas Phelippes, knts., the 16th August, 1619.

Whereas George Humfrie of Seavington Upton, husbandman, the reputed father, has been conveyed away by Richard and John Dun of Seavington Michael to some place to us unknown : the said Richard and John are each of them to pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens, etc., of Seavington Mary, and be bound in good security, until they bring forth the said George Humfrie. Margaret Edmonds, the mother, shall by her own industry keep the child so far as she is able. [S.R., xxxii, i, 41.]

19. Order made the 16th of July, 1619, by Sir Robert Phelippes and Sir Edward Hext, knts,

George Cribbe, John Dyer and William Pype, all of Whitcombe in the parish of Martock, husbandmen, are each of them to pay six pence weekly for the relief of the base-born child of Joane Farmun ; and to enter into good security in twenty pounds each to perform this order. [S.R., xxxii, i, 76.]

20. Order made the 6th of August, 1619, by Humfry Wyndham and John Coles, esquires.

Thomas Nation, the reputed father, shall pay before the feast of St. Bartholomew to the churchwardens of Lidiard Episcopi six pence for every week since the birth of the child for that he hath not paid anything as yet ; and shall pay nine pence weekly from the date of this order.

Mary Tucker, the mother, as well as for this offence as for the having of two former base children, shall be sent to the House of Correction for one whole year. [S.R., xxxii, i, 79.]

GENERAL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLS the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th days of January, 17 James [1619-20], before the Right Reverend Arthur [Lake] Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Francis Popham, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Thomas Bridges, Sir Robert Phelippes, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Barkeley, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, knts., Robert Wright, D.D., Gerard Wood, D.D., Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, John Maye, James Bisse, Marmaduke Jennings, Thomas Southworth, Matthew Ewens, James Clerke, William Capell, James Farwell, Edward Tynte, Richard Davies, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

[*These orders are taken from the rough Minute Book 1616-1624 ; the Order-Book being deficient.*]

1. Both the Richmans to be bound to the good behaviour and to pay their rates towards the building of a cottage as they are taxed with the rest of the parishioners of Stanton Prior. [See No. 24 of this Sess.]

2. Milton [Clevedon] is to provide for Mountyer, his children, because they were born there. Mountier and his wife to stay at Kilmington till farther order. [Repeated in 21. S.R., xxxv, ii, 34, 41, 42, 43 (letter of Mr. Raynon).]

3. The examination of certain abuses and misdemeanours committed by the clerk of the market and his deputies within the hundred of Milverton and other hundreds in the western parts is by the Court referred to John Coles, John Symes, Robert Cuffe and Edward Lancaster, esquires, or any three or two of them, who are thereupon to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions.

4. At this Sessions for the answering of the Counsell's letters [Privy Council], Baronet Phillipps and Mr. Coles for the wester division; Sir Thomas Bridges and Mr. Capell for the easter division are appointed this year.

5. Nicholas Staple of Locking is licensed to be a common badger of butter and cheese within this county to be sold in Wilts, Hamps., Dorset and Devon for one year, with four horses.

6. Whereas the overseers and churchwardens of Cletworthy [Clatworthy] hold 20*l*. belonging to John Comes the younger, an impotent person, who wishes to live at Wiveliscombe with his brother-in-law Robert Goodman; and whereas the said Goodman is willing to receive him if he may have the 20*l*. for his own use: Ordered that the money may be paid, on a bond being given that the money shall be repaid if the said Comes return through any defect or ill usage of the said Goodman. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 9, 10, 73, 74.]

7. Warrant for the good behaviour granted against William Cape of Wellington, constable, because he doth not execute a warrant, one for hurting another although he is daily in his company; and the like against Thomas Bull for ill words in the same business,

8. The assuring of the County Court book in Sir Thomas Newton's year is referred to Sir Edward Rodney and Mr. Southworth.

9. Warrant for the good behaviour against John Underwood of Evercreech for his disobedience and tongue to Mr. Francis Kirton at the muster.

10. Mr. Ewens to pay one-half of the charge and the parish of Butleigh the other, till the woman can be found out farther to examine it. [See No. 22.]

11. The recognizance of one bound to give evidence against one Vincent to be stayed, [on the application of] Mr. Hopton.

12. Referred to Sir Henry Barkeley, Mr. Ewens, and Mr. Farwell to examine about William White.

13. Thomas Tanner of Milverton, yeoman, is bound in 20*li*. with condition for his licence to shoot in a hand gun according to the statute. [33 Hen. VIII., c. 6.]

14. Andrew Haverfild of Milverton, yeoman, is bound in 20*li*. with condition to use his licence to shoot in a hand gun according to the statute.

15. Licence granted to Richard Eyres of Chewton (the lord of the manor consenting with the churchwardens and steward) to build a house for habitation at the charges of the said Eyres and his friend; the churchwardens and steward to appoint the plea. [*Cancelled* and entered in a more formal manner in 16.]

17. On the petition of Thompson Reede of Chewton Mendipp, widow, a poor aged lame and impotent person, it is ordered that the churchwardens and overseers shall provide a house for her to succour and harbour herself therein, that she be not compelled to make any further complaint for the same. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 36.]

18. On the petition of Joseph Starr and other inhabitants of Yeavell that Roger Ward of the same town hath lately sold unto seven or eight several persons a piece of ground not above three-quarters of an acre lying in a cornfield of Yeavell to build eight houses upon; and one person hath already built a house, and the others are very active therein, by reason whereof, the petitioners have sustained many damages as they allege: Ordered that the building shall be stayed; and that Sir Robert Phelippes will be pleased to examine the said premisses and to bind over to the next Sessions all such as shall go forward in the same building in contempt of this order. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 35.]

19. Susan Dredge, late covenant servant with one Henry Clercke at East Pennard, is to be sent there from Ditchat where she now remaineth in respect she was begotten with child by Richard Lide at East Pennard aforesaid. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 6.]

20. Licence granted to Tristram Laurence of Northover, to buy barley and oats to convert into malt for twelve bushells [*qu.*] weekly of barley and oats for one year.

21. Same as No. 2.

22. After hearing of a cause of bastardy now in difference between Mr. Will. Ewens of Butleigh, and the parishioners of the same, it is ordered that Mr. Ewens do pay one-half of the cost of maintenance of the child and the inhabitants of Butleigh the other half, until Charity Lovedon, the mother, be found out and apprehended, whereby farther examination and order may be taken therein.

23. Elizabeth Churcheyard, widow, and her children are, on the petition of the overseers of Dowltinge, to be sent to Wincaulton to be received and provided for, unless the inhabitants show good cause to the contrary to Sir Henry Barkeley, knt., and Robert Hopton, esq., before the next General Sessions. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 4.]

24. Upon hearing of the cause in difference between the parishioners of Stanton Prior and John Richman of the same

clerk [in Holy Orders] and Will. Richman of the same, gent., touching the erecting of a house for the relief of the poor at Stanton : Ordered that John and Will. Richman shall pay all such monies as they are severally rated and taxed for the erecting of the said house.

[Bastardy Orders sent to this Sessions will be found in S.R., xxxv, ii, 12, 13.]

ILCHESTER, 18 JAMES, 1620.

[The earlier parts of the proceedings including list of Justices present, and the Kalendar, are missing. The Kalendar will be found in S.R., xxxv, ii, 80.]

1. Whereas William Hayle of Sanford Orcas, a very poor old man blind and crippled doth receive a very small relief from the overseers, and hath been relieved by his brother Thomas Hale of the same place, a poor man, not able to bear such a charge any longer, having impoverished himself thereby: Ordered and desired that Sir Henry Barckley, knt., and Matthew Ewens, esq., shall call the overseers before them, and order them to allow reasonable relief to the said Will. Hayle; and farther to do therein as they shall think fit. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 75.]

2. John Parsons the younger, of Farmborowe, shall between this and the Feast of St. John Baptist next give sufficient security by bond or otherwise to the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish to discharge them from any charge which may happen from the said Parsons or any other which he hath brought or shall bring into the parish. In default to be bound over to the next Sessions to answer his contempt therein.

3. Peter Bushe of Evercreech, gent., to deliver unto Susan, wife of John Locke, to the use of the said John the possession of a house at Evercreech which he now detaineth within convenient time. If he refuseth to be bound over to the next Sessions to answer the premisses.

4. Tobby Mead shall quietly continue at Shepton Beauchamp in any house that he can rent for his money, so as he give security to the approval and liking of Baronet Phellips to the parishioners of Shepton B. to discharge them from any charge that may hereafter arise by his means. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 44.]

5. Upon hearing the differences between John Merritt and Robert Tayler of Littleton, the court orders that Robert T. pay to John M. forthwith twenty pounds, and that all the differences now depending between them be referred to two of their neighbours to be fully determined, and moreover that the parties give mutual releases each to other.

6. The order made at the last Wells Sessions touching the placing of John Mountyer with his wife and children shall stand in force until good cause be shown to the contrary in some open Sessions in respect that no material thing was now alleged by the parishioners of Killmington to induce the Court to alter their former order.

7. A house of correction shall be erected within the eastern part of this shire ; and the justices of peace of the easter division or any six or more of them shall meet and appoint a place for the house and the means for building of the same, and to certify their agreement at the next Taunton or Bridgwater Sessions.

8. Upon the petition of the inhabitants of Aller, ordered that all persons holding any ground in the parish shall pay proportionately all such taxes, rates and payments, as the inhabitants do pay.

Thomas Phellips, Robert Phellips, Henry Barckley, Thomas Southworth, Christopher Preston, Matthew Ewens, Robert Cuffe, John Menfield, James Farewell, Edward Lancaster. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 49.]

9. Forty shillings the remainder of a greater sum laid out for the apprehending of Thomas Pocock and others of Gregorystoke shall be collected and gathered of the inhabitants of North Curry Hundred by an indifferent rate to be made for that purpose.

10. Whereas a petition hath been made to the Bench by the overseers of Clatworthy on behalf of the inhabitants of C.: all the parties concerned are to appear at the next general Sessions at Taunton, when the Court will hear the differences and take order; and in the mean time the parish to reserve the twenty pounds unless sufficient security be given for the discharge of the said parish. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 73, 74.]

11. On a petition to this Court by Joane Harvy of Evell (Yeovil) that whereas Barbara wife of John Gaylard of Mountague [Montacute] did covenant to send her three daughters to the said Joan to be taught to make bonelace for one year, they receiving two shillings and sixpence weekly for their maintenance; that the parents had taken away the children when the best part of the year was coming on, they then being able to do some service and earn some money by their trade for the said Joane: desired that Sir Robert Phelippes, knt., will examine the parties and bind over to the next Sessions those found faulty therein, if he think fit. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 83.]

12. Order made by Sir Henry Barckley, knt., Matthew Ewens and James Farwell, esquires, the 16th Oct. last [1619].

Peter Rugge of Weston Banfield the reputed father shall pay eight pence weekly until the child is seven years of age; and shall also pay six shillings for the nine weeks between the birth of the child and the date of this order.

Edith Parker the mother is to keep the child; and for her offence is to be stripped bare from the waist upwards and whipped about the parish of Weston B. on St. John (Evangelist's) day after morning prayer.

Both parents to give security to discharge the parish of the said child. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 76.]

13. Order made by John Paulett and John Merefeild, esquires, the 20th April, 1620.

Walter Burrige of Mysterton butcher, the father of the child of Grace Hilborne late of Creukerne deceased, shall pay eight pence weekly to the collectors of the poor of Crewkerne with all arrearage, until he shall otherwise discharge the said parish. And

also give sufficient security to perform the said order. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 77.]

14. Order made by George Luttrell, Thomas Wyndham, and Edward Lancaster, esquires, at Dunster the 5th February [1619-20].

On the confession of Mary Ewens the mother of the twin children, the examination of several witnesses, and the confession of Roger Maye the father that he hath already done penance for this fact in the parish church of Mynehead by order of the spiritual court testified by several parishioners, we do order,

Roger Maye shall pay sixteen pence weekly to the overseers for the support of the children until they can be apprenticed, and shall give security for the performance or otherwise be committed to the common gaol there to remain without bail or mainprise, until he shall perform the same. Mary Ewens the mother shall do her uttermost endeavour to nourish and bring up the children or otherwise be committed to the house of correction. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 78.]

15. Order made by John Poulett and John Merefeild, esquires, the 29th Sept., 1619.

William Forde of Crewkerne the reputed father shall pay fourteen pence weekly, with all arrerage at the same rate, to the churchwardens every Sunday after evening prayer. Elizabeth Wheadon of C. the mother shall keep the child, receiving the said weekly payment. The said W. Forde shall give due security for the discharge of the parish. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 79.]

16. Francis Baber, esq., is desired to cause whereof Thomas Hippisley of Chewton was bound over to this Sessions concerning the child of Edith Newbery, to determine the same if he can, and to certify his doing and opinion at the next Sessions. In the meantime the child to be sent unto Castle of Bristol to be received until farther order be taken. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 92, 93.]

17. Sir Thomas Bridges, knt, and Robert Hopton and Francis Baber, esquires, are desired to examine whether the several cottages built at Midsomer Norton by John Hawkins, Will,

Davies, Henry Nevell, and Will. Sallesbury be builded contrary to the statute or not, and to make certificate thereof at the next Sessions.

18. On a petition from the churchwardens and overseers of Chewton that there is a place or hamlet called Greene Oare farm reputed to be within the said parish for that the inhabitants do and have continually time out of mind, used to christen, marry and bury and resort to church at Chewton, notwithstanding the inhabitants of Green Oare refuse to pay or contribute to such rates and payments as they are assessed and rated by the parishioners of Chewton towards the church and poor, for that they pretend they are not within the parish: Desired by the Court that the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Edward Rodney, knt., Robert Hopton and Thomas Southworth, esquires, or any two of them will be pleased to examine the premisses and to set down an order therein. [S.R., xxxv, ii, 94.]

19. Sir Hugh Smith, knt., and Edward Tynte, esq., are desired to examine the business for which John Hasell of Bedminster was bound over to this Sessions; and to order and determine the same, or otherwise to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxv, i, 4.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON on the 18th, 19th and 20th days of July 18 James (1620) before Sir Henry Portman, Baronet, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, knights, John Powlett, Thomas Southworth, Edward Rogers, John Symes, Francis Baber, Christopher Preston, Robert Cuffe, Thomas Brereton, George Brown, James Clarke, Matthew Ewens, Thomas Windham, Marmaduke Jennings, Gawen Mallett, Richard Davies, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. All amerciaments concerning Heale bridge [in Bradford Parish] shall be stayed according to former orders therein made;

and it is referred to John Symes, Thomas Brereton and James Clarke, esquires, or any two of them, to examine and see if the said bridge be amended according to the former orders, and to examine likewise if there hath been any issues levied for the said bridge, and to do therein as law requireth. [S.R., xxxv, i, 40.]

2. Whereas there hath been difference and controversy between the churchwardens and overseers of Clatworthy and Robert Goodman of Wiveliscombe concerning the keeping of John Comer the younger an impotent person and of twenty pounds now in the hands of the churchwardens, and several orders made ; all which have been read and the parties heard at large : Ordered that the parishioners shall keep the said Comer and the said money, unless the said Goodman shall become bound with sufficient securities to keep the said Comer and to discharge and free the parish of him. [S.R., xxxv, i, 37, 38.]

3. The young child which was found under a hedge in April last in the parish of Cutcombe is to be forthwith conveyed to Penmarke in Wales (where it was born) at the charge of those that were appointed to guard the supposed father to gaol.

4. Whereas it appeareth that Minehead is often charged by reason of country towns with the maintenance of diverse Irish rogues and vagabonds which are sent thither to be transported into Ireland : Ordered that the tithying where such offenders are apprehended shall have the charge for their conveyance to Minehead, and that such necessary charges as shall be laid out afterwards for their relief and transportation be allowed out of the monies collected for the Hospitals for this time.

5. Richard Wilkes *als.* Wheeler shall pay to George Morris six pounds for that he detaineth from the said Morris and Annis his wife goods to the value of sixteen pounds by virtue of a deed of gift made in trust to the said Richard by Thomas Hammon father of the said Annis, as appeareth by a certificate under the hands of Sir Thos. Bridges, Francis Baber, and Edward Tynte, esquires. And on his refusal the said Richard

shall be bound over to the good behaviour until he shall satisfy the said six pounds. [S.R., xxxv, i, 26.]

6. Whereas it hath been ordered in open Sessions that the house of James Hayball at Green Oare upon Mendip be suppressed from tippling, and yet notwithstanding the occupiers of the said house continue to tipple without licence: Ordered that a warrant of the good behaviour be granted against Peter Bush, tenant of the said house, who doth keep a tippling house there contrary to the said orders and in contempt of the justices of this Court. [S.R., xxxv, i, 17, 25.]

7. William Willmott of Penceford shall have 53*sh.* 4*d.* paid to him by the Treasurer of the Hospitals of both divisions equally towards his losses by fire. [S.R., xxxv, i, 28.]

Nicholas Halswell, Edward Hext, Robert Phelipps, John Powlett, Francis Heale, Thomas Southworth, John Symes.

8. On a petition from the inhabitants of Ballsborowe [Baltonsborough] that the parson and other farmers who have certain grounds within the said parish of a good value pay nothing towards the repairing of the highways leading to many great market towns, which are very founderaus and bad, and that the said parson whose parsonage is of very good value is at no charge for repairing the chancel of the church: The said farmers and parson shall pay rateably with the rest of the parish towards the repairing of the roads, and the parson is to pay in like manner towards the repairing of the church unless they show very good cause to the contrary at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxv, i, 1.]

9. Robert Cooke shall have ten shillings allowed him by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers towards his present relief for the hurts sustained by him in the late Queen's Majesty's service.

Nicholas Halswell, Henry Portman, Robert Phelipps, John Powlett, Edward Hext, Edward Popham,

10. Ordered that one Clive shall have his pension taken from him, and shall not receive the same any longer, upon the cause now alleged by Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and John Pawlett, esq.

11. Upon the petition of Guy Somer of Lillsdon in the parish of North Curry, and upon the certificate of Mrs. Joane Connocke, widow, lady of the manor of Lillsdon: Ordered that he may build a cottage on some part of the waste of the manor which cottage is to remain for ever to the use of the poor of Lillsdon, although there be not four acres of land laid thereunto. [S.R., xxxv, i, 18, 19.]

12. Upon the petition of Henry Pittard a maimed soldier, it is ordered that his pension of 40*s*h. be increased to 53*s*h. and 4*d*. to be paid quarterly by the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers.

Edward Hext, Robert Phelipps, Thomas Southworth, John Symes, Francis Baber, Marmaduke Jennings, Edward Lancaster. [S.R., xxxv, i, 30.]

13. Whereas there is a difference between Adrien Howse and Nicholas Howse concerning a tenement whereupon an indictment was preferred at this Sessions for a forceable entry and detaining; how by the consent of all parties John Symes and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, are to order the possession of the tenement and the mean profits until the title be tried, and then to order the possession according to right.

14. Whereas there is a difference between the parish of Milverton and James Clegge of Lymmington about the base child of Agnes Chilcott, and after an open hearing and examining in open Court the said Clegge was discharged; notwithstanding upon the farther complaint of the parish of Milverton, the Court will be pleased to examine the same at the next Sessions and make a final order therein. [S.R., xxxv, i, 72.]

15. Matthew Ewens, esq., is appointed Treasurer of the Hospitals for the easter division, and Gawen Mallett, esq., for the west division.

And Francis Baber and Thomas Wyndham, esquires, are appointed to take the account of the last Treasurers.

16. Alexander Howe has been elected to the office of constable of the Hundred of Kingsbury West and duly sworn.

[At this place a leaf has been torn out of the order book, but on examination of the rough Minute Book the following order only appears to be omitted. It is therefore probable that the rest of the missing leaf was filled with bastardy orders as in the case of the following pages.]

16a. On a certificate under the hand and seal of Emanuell Sandys of South Petherton, gent., that he hath given leave to Richard Gill to erect a cottage upon parcel of his land; the said cottage is hereby allowed to be erected. Although there be not four acres of land laid thereunto, so as the said Gill obtain the consent of the inhabitants of South Petherton. [S.R., xxxv, i, 53, 58.]

17. Order made the 31st May, 1620, by Sir Henry Barkley, knt., and James Farwell, esq., touching Mary, the base child of Agnes Browne, born at Gesper, in the county of Somerset, lying within the parish of Sturton in the county of Wilts.

Humfry Langer of Bruham, innholder, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Gesper after morning prayer at Sturton, including all arrerage from the birth of the child; and shall also enter into bond to discharge the parish.

Agnes Browne, the mother, shall keep the child; and for her farther punishment shall be openly whipt at Bruton on the 1st July being market day and at Bruham on the 4th July. [S.R., xxxv, i, 46.]

18. Order made the 12th July, 1620, by Sir Thomas Hughes, knt., and Thomas Southworth, esq.

Mary Woburne of Coleford shall keep her child at her own charge; Stephen Ruddle of Lighe, [Leigh on Mendip] collier, shall pay to the collectors of the poor for the parish of Stoke

Lane, six pence weekly towards the finding of the child and binding of her apprentice.

The said Mary shall be whipped at the place where the child was born ; and the father having confessed to the fact shall be whipped also. [S.R., xxxv, i, 45.]

19. Order made the 19th July, 1620, by John Symes and Robert Cuffe, esquires.

John Sheppard of Linge, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence a week since the birth of the child, to be paid monthly to the churchwardens and overseers of North Curry at the parish church ; and to give sufficient security for the performance of this order. Mary Guddridge of North Curry shall keep and maintain her child, being relieved by the churchwardens as need shall require. [S.R., xxxv, i, 31.]

20. Order made by Thomas Wyndham and Edward Lancaster, esquires, the 6th July, 1620.

Agnes Milton of Exton the mother shall keep her child until the fourth of March next, and then Roger Pearce of Winsford the reputed father, who confesseth the same, shall keep the same and discharge the said parish of Exton from all burden or charge. [S.R., xxxv, i, 24.]

21. Order made the 13th June, 1620, by Sir Henry Barkley, knt., and Robert Hopton, esq.

Richard Lane of Lovington, the reputed father, labourer, shall pay six pence weekly unto the overseers of Evercreech in the church porch every Sabbath day after evening prayer to be employed for the use of the child for raising of a stock or otherwise.

Mary Stevens shall keep the child herself if she be found able : and as soon as she shall be found strong of body, she shall be whipped until her body be bloody upon a market day publicly in Bruton about one of the clock in the afternoon to be an example to others to avoid the like offence.

The father and mother shall give security to perform this our order. [S.R., xxxv, i, 9, 10.]

22. Order made 16th July, 1620, by Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., and John Merefield, esq.

William Jenkyns of Yevill, the reputed father shall pay eight pence weekly to the overseers of Yevill for the relief of the said child.

Julian Pryde, widow, the mother, shall keep and bring up the child.

Jenkyns shall enter into bond of 20*li.* with two sufficient securities to perform this order. [S.R., xxxv, i, 13.]

23. Order made the 10th of May, 1620, by Sir John Wyndham, knt., Thomas Wyndham and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

Roger Hooper of Wiveliscombe, shoemaker, the reputed father shall forthwith pay to the churchwardens and overseers of Brumpton Raph ten shillings which has been already laid out for the relief of the child ; and shall enter into bond within fourteen days of notice of this order to take the child and hereafter keep the same.

Elizabeth Plaise of Brumpton now remaining in the house of correction in Taunton shall there continue according to our *mittimus* wherewith she was sent. [S.R., xxxv, i, 2.]

24. Order made at Wiveliscombe the 17th of July, 1620, by Humfry Wyndham and John Colles, esquires.

Thomas Hill of Wiveliscombe the reputed father shall pay ten pence to the churchwardens in the church there at or upon the Communion Table after divine service ended in the forenoon, to be paid to the mother or other person in charge of the child. And also eight pence for each week from the birth of the said child.

Agnes Licester the mother shall keep the child or pay six pence weekly.

Finally, for that it is alleged the said Thomas will fly and not perform this order, that he shall stand bound in recognizance from Sessions to Sessions until certificate be made by us or one of us that he hath given security with sureties for performance of the said order, and discharge of the parish of Wiveliscombe.

BRIDGWATER SESSIONS, 1620.

[This portion of the book is in a bad condition, and much of it has perished, including the greater part of the list of justices present.]

ORDERS.

1. Thomas Windham, esq. chosen treasurer for the maimed soldiers for this year, and Marmaduke Jennings and Edward Lancaster, esquires, to take the account of Sir Edward Rodney, knt., the last treasurer.

2. With regard to the renewed complaint by the parish of Milverton concerning James Clegg, it is now ordered that the discharge given to Clegg, at the last Taunton Sessions, shall in all points stand in effect without farther trouble to the said Clegg.

3. Thomas Power to have ten shillings from the treasurer of the maimed soldiers in regard of some "maihome" he hath received in the war as he allegeth, whereby he shall be utterly barred from the having of any other pension out of this county.

4. Edward Thomas of Milton, shall have forty shillings now paid him by the treasurer of the maimed soldiers in respect that he hath lost his left hand heretofore at a muster for which he was allowed four pounds, and this second payment to be in full satisfaction.

Robert Philipps, Edward Hext, Tho. Hughes, Edward Popham, Tho. Southworth, Robt. Cuffe, Ja. Clarke.

5. Anne Laty is to be sent to Wells (when she was begotten with child), there to remain, unless cause be shown to the contrary at the next Sessions,

6. Agnes Houlder in margin. The order has perished, and it is not entered in the rough book.

7. The appeal from an order made at the last Sessions concerning the highways and chancel of Baltisborowe [Baltonsborough] is adjourned to the next Ilchester Sessions in regard all the parties were not now present. The farmers and parson to give notice of this order to the parishioners at their peril.

8. Upon the petition of Christopher Daye and John Saunders of Stone Easton, the Court desires the two next Justices to examine whether the place whereon the petitioners have erected a cottage is fitting or no, and whether the same be built with the licence of the lord of the soil and the consent of the inhabitants, and to certify their opinion therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxv, i, 69.]

9. Upon hearing of the cause in difference between the parishioners of Mark and Southbrent touching the settling of Robert Manshapp: ordered that he remain and continue at Southbrent, for that the Court doth as yet conceive that there he was last settled.

And the two next Justices are to call the parishes before them, and to certify how they find it at the next Sessions that a final order may be made therein. [This last paragraph from the rough book. S.R., xxxv, i, 60.]

10. On the information of Powell Daye that he was last settled at Kelston by the space of two years and a half, and hath since then never been settled elsewhere, but hath travelled up and down to settle himself, and hath now procured a reference from his Majesty about his settling: ordered that the said Daye shall remain at Kellston where the parishioners shall provide him a house for his money, or else to set him to work according to the law. [This is taken from the rough book. S.R., xxxv, i, 63, is the petition to the King, endorsed with the royal command that it be attended to: from the Court at Salisbury, 8th August, 1620, by John Suckling.]

11. *Margin.* An order to be published at this Sessions: . . . neglected. It is therefore in open Court now ordered that the Justices of Peace within their several divisions do deliver unto the Sheriff before the first day of November next a true note of all the freeholders within their several divisions to the end the sheriff may make a perfect book of their freeholders and deliver the same book unto the Clerk of the Assizes before the end of Michaelmas Term next that the service hereafter may be better performed.

Laur. Tanfeild. Richard Hutton.

12. Robert Jennings elected constable of the Hundred of Milverton is sworn in.

Bastardy Orders probably entered at this Sessions: *S.R.*, xxxv, ii, 95 ; i, 8.

S.R., xxxv, i, 52. Christopher Smalland to have forty shillings from the Treasurer of the wester division, in consideration of wounds received in Ireland. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 30, 31.]

S.R., xxxv, i, 55. Henry Babson to build a cottage at Priddie, though there be not four acres of land laid thereto.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th days of January, 18 James (1620-1), before Sir Henry Portman, Baronet, Sir Henry Barckley and Edward Rodney, knts., John Powlett, Robert Hopton, Thomas Southworth, Francis Baber, James Bysse, Thomas Windham, Edward Tynte, James Farewell, and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

1. Sir Edward Gorges and Edward Tynte, esq., are appointed to answer such letters as shall come from the Lords of his Majesty's Council for the easter division ; and Sir John Windham, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., for the wester division, according to an order made at Wells, 1609. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 81.]

2. Edward Rogers and Robert Cuffe, esquires, shall examine and "assewer" the "extrets" and amerciaments of the County Court book for the last year in the time of John Trevelian, esq., his "sheriffweeke."

3. The cottage erected by Daye and Sanders is licensed by the lord of the soil, and the consent of the parishioners, also being erected in a very convenient place: it is therefore thought fit to be allowed, provided Hugh Halswell give consent, who claimeth some of the waste. [See No. 23 of this Sessions.]

Francis Baber. James Bysse. Hugh Halswell.

4. Whereas the Justices of the Peace of the several divisions have received the contributions into their hands for the King and Queen of Bohemia: it is now ordered that they shall pay the same to John Powlett, esq., who may pay over the same to the Ambassador of Bohemia, according to the request in his letter to the said Mr. Powlett.

Henr. Portman, Robert Hopton, Edward Popham, Edward Tynte, Ric. Davies, James Bysse, Thomas Southworth, Henry Barckley, Francis Baber, Marmaduke Jennings, Edw. Lancaster, Jas. Farewell.

5. Whereas Thomas Coxe, tithingman of Milton Clevedon, has informed the Court that there are 54*sh.* and 10 pence owing to him from divers inhabitants for a rate made for the charge of the Muster, and such other occasions: all such as are behind in payment are to be convented before Sir Henry Barckley, who is desired to bind over all such as still refuse to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 9.]

6. Sir John Horner, knt., Robert Hopton, Francis Baber, and James Bysse, esquires, or any two of them, are desired to examine the petition of William Busher of Compton Dando; and either order that he shall have a certain place of abode, or else certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions.

7. The parishioners of Kelston have informed the Court that Powell Daye ordered to be settled there is a very unruly, disordered person, who cannot be trusted with any work ; also he hath a reversion of a tenement in Burnett, worth at the least a hundred pounds to be sold ; and he hath heretofore been ordered to be settled at St. George [Easton-in-Gordano]. It is now ordered that the overseers of the three parishes aforesaid shall attend at the next Ivelchester Sessions, when a final order shall be made ; and in the meantime Daye shall remain at Kelston and get his work where he can. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 41.]

8. Whereas John Harbyn, esq., is chosen constable of the Hundred of Stone and Catishaish : ordered on good causes shown to the Court that he be discharged of the said office ; and that John Jacobb of Evell [Yeovil] be chosen constable in his room.

9. Edward Orenge, esq., to pay one-third of the rates for the poor on that part of a farm in the parish of Buckland [Dinham] which he hath taken at a rack-rent from Mrs. Elizabeth Upton ; and Mrs. Upton in regard of the rack-rent shall pay two parts of the rates. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 43.]

10. On a petition of Richard Frye of Street, that he is a very poor man with a great charge of six small children, which are fit to be bound apprentice according to the orders heretofore taken by the Judges of Assize and Justices of Peace ; yet they are still remaining on his hands, and he can get no relief of the parish : Desired that the two next Justices of the Peace shall call Frye and the overseers and such others of the said parish as they shall think fit before them ; and to settle and bind forth such of the said children and take such further order herein as they shall think fit. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 4.]

11. On the petition of Mr. John Midlam of Axbridge, Sir Francis Heale and Edward Rogers, esq., are desired to call before them John Smyth, eldest son of Robert and Mary Smyth, his wife deceased, and to take such course that he may in some convenient time deliver up the portions of the younger children into some sufficient men's hands, or give security for the payment

thereof when they come to years of discretion, as also for their present relief and maintenance. And farther to certify their doings at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 3.]

12. Sir Henry Barkley is desired to examine the petition of the inhabitants of Kilmington about the difference between them and Milton Clevedon concerning the placing of John Mountyer, his wife and children, and to order and determine the same if he can ; and if not, to certify his opinion therein to the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 44.]

13. On the petition of Richard Rogers, John Cooke, and William Nevill of Berrowe, that by reason of a fire there on the 24th November last, they amongst others sustained much loss to their utter undoing unless they be relieved by the charitable benevolence of some well-disposed persons: John Maye and Joseph Rattle, esquires, are desired to examine the value of every man's losses, and whether they are utterly undone ; and to make certificate thereof at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 1.]

14. As it appears to the Court by a passe under the hand and seal of the Earl of Ormonth [Ormond], that Clement Stokes of Shepton Mallet was pressed for a soldier in the time of the late wars in Ireland, where he served six years under the said Earl, and there received divers hurts and maims, by reason of which now in his old age he is unable to maintain himself and family : Ordered that he shall have forty shillings yearly from the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 46, 47.]

Henry Portman, Henry Berkley, Edward Rodney, John Powlett, Francis Baber, Robert Hopton, Ric. Davies, John Maye.

15. On the petition of John Davies that he hath lived as an apprentice for seven years with John Combe of Elm, tayler, since which time he hath married a wife in Chew Magna, yet now he cannot be quietly admitted to inhabit a house in Elm, nor in Chew Magna, nor in Chewstoke where he was born

Robert Hopton, Francis Baber, and James Bysse, esquires, or any two of them, are desired to examine the said cause, and to order and determine the same if they can, or to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 15.]

16. Order made the 21st October, 1620, by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., the two next justices to Compton Dunden. John Collins, butcher, and Dorothy Wootton, both of Compton, the parents of the child, are to pay six pence and two pence respectively for the relief of the said child to the churchwardens and overseers ; and further to give good security for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 36.]

17. Order made the 12th August, 1620, by Hugh Pyne and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

Richard Evens of Ivelchester, labourer, the reputed father of the child, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens of Fivehead after Evening Prayer until the child be apprenticed. He shall also give bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Joane Loscombe of Fivehead, the mother, shall nourish and keep her child ; and shall receive correction by whipping within the said parish at such convenient time as the churchwardens and overseers shall think fit. [S.R., xxvii, ii, 23.]

18. Order made the 16th September, 1620, by Sir Henry Barklegh, knt., and James Farewell, esq.

Giles Illin of Charlton Musgrove, "taylor," the reputed father, shall pay four pence weekly every Sabbath day after Morning Prayer for the relief of the child ; and give good security for the payment.

Joane Williams of Charlton Musgrove, the mother, shall keep the child ; and shall be whipt by the constable or tithyngman or by their deputy until her body, bare from the girdle upwards, be bloody. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 16.]

19. Whereas there is a difference between the parishioners of Lovington, Shepton Mountague and Gallington [Galhampton in

North Cadbury] about the settling of William Giles, an old impotent man ; upon some cause shown it is ordered that he remain at Gallington with Mr. Morren. And Sir Henry Barkley, knt., Matthew Ewens and James Farewell, esquires, or any two of them, shall call the overseers and Will. Gyles, or such others as they think fit ; and unless they order to the contrary, the said Gyles shall remain at Gallington.

20. It being alleged at this Sessions that William Smyth of Wedmore hath married the widow of Ralphe Holle of Dichett, whose three children received maintenance from their grandfather as long as he should live, and the said Smyth is a very disorderly fellow like to be chargeable to Dichett if he remain there : Ordered that Smyth and his wife be sent to Wedmore there to remain, unless the parish shall give security to Dichett to discharge them of any farther charge to be brought upon them by Smyth and his wife ; and the three children to remain at Dichett and have their yearly maintenance. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 6.]

21. Upon hearing of the difference between the parishioners of Shepton Mallet and Doddington, it is ordered that Roger Burges shall be sent to Doddington, where he was born, there to be received and provided for until the parishioners show good cause to the contrary ; since John Burges the father is not of sufficient means and ability to maintain himself, but would want himself were he not maintained by John Barnard, gent.

22. Whereas there is a difference between the parishioners of Beniger, Nunney, and Stanton Drewe, touching the settling of Edward Marchant : Sir John Horner, knt., Francis Baber and James Bysse, esquires, are desired to call before them the parties on all sides, and to examine and determine the same : and if they cannot, to certify their opinions therein at the next General Sessions.

23. On a certificate from Francis Baber and James Bysse, esquires, concerning a cottage built by Daye and Saunders at Stone Easton [Bridgwater Sess. 1620, No. 8] : Ordered that the cottage so built shall continue although there be not four acres laid thereunto. [See No. 3 of this Sessions. S.R., xxxvii, ii, 19, 20.]

24. On a certificate from Sir Edward Rodney, knt., and Nathaniel Still, esq., that Robert Manshipp was last settled in South Brent: Ordered that he shall be settled there according to the certificate, as also according to the opinion of the Justices at Bridgwater where the cause was openly heard with the proofs on both sides. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 9.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT IVELCHESTER on the 10th, 11th and 12th days of April, 19 James [1621], before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Henry Barckley, Sir Edward Rodney, knts., John Powlett, Thomas Southworth, John Stowell, John Symes, Hugh Pyne, Matthew Ewens, Edward Tynte, James Bysse, Marmaduke Jennings, John Merefield and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. John Miller to pay Dorothy Miller 26*sh.* 8*d.* at Midsummer next, and 6*sh.* 8*d.* every quarter day following, according to a former order had between them in the presence of Christopher Preston, esq., and to deliver up the bed and bedstead; on refusal to be bound over to his good behaviour to the next Sessions.

2. Upon the petition of the parishioners of Weston in Zoyland touching the placing of Christabell Hodge: Sir Nicholas Halswell, knt., Edward Popham and Robert Cuffe, esquires, or any two of them, to examine and determine in what parish the said Hodge ought to be settled; or if they cannot, to certify their opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 44.]

3. Upon hearing of the cause in difference between the parishioners of Wrington and Congersbury: ordered that the base child of Mary Bussell shall be relieved at Congersbury where it was born.

4. Upon full hearing of the cause of Powell Daye in open Court, it is ordered that he shall be settled at St. George's

[Easton-in-Gordano], where the parishioners shall provide him a house for his money that he may there set himself to work according to the law; and if he shall at any time hereafter wander and travel abroad as formerly he hath used to do, then by Sir Hugh Smyth, knt., or Edward Tynte, esq., upon complaint he shall be committed to the House of Correction, there to be set on work according to the law. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 26.]

5. All proceedings at the Sessions between William Walrond, esq., and the parishioners of Ilbruers touching a cottage built there shall be stayed, in that the parties are now at the Common Law.

6. Sir Edward Gorges, knt., and Edward Tynte, esq., are desired to examine the truth of certain articles now preferred against Jenkin Davies, Clerke, and to certify their opinions therein at the next Sessions.

7. On the certificate and relation now made unto the Court by Sir Henry Barkley, knt., and Matthew Ewens, esq., touching the settling of William Gyles [Wells Sess., 1620-1, No. 19]: ordered that he be sent with this order to Shepton Mountague there to be received and set on work.

8. Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., is desired to examine the petition of the inhabitants of the Hundred of Houndesborowe, Barwicke and Coker, who account themselves over-burdened and charged in their payments towards the Composition money, and to certify his doings and opinion therein at the next General Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 14.]

9. Upon sight of this order Thomas White of Tuttells, in the tything of Dowlting, who was presented at a law-day holden for the Hundred of Whitstone the Thursday after Michaelmas last to be tythingman of the said tything for the year next following, is to repair to the two next Justices and there take his oath for the execution of the said office; which if he shall refuse to do, he shall be bound to answer the premisses at the next General Sessions, and in the meantime to be of the good behaviour. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 7.]

10. John Davies to be settled at Elm until the parishioners do show good cause to the contrary, in that it doth not now appear that he was ever quietly settled elsewhere since his apprenticeship there. [Wells Sess. 1620-1, No. 15. S.R., xxxvii, i, 43.]

11. All the differences between Nicholas Harvie, esq., and William Horte, his servant, and Thomas Smarte, clerke, are referred to the examination and determination of William Capell and John Smethes, esquires.

12. Sir John Horner, knt., and Robert Hopton, esq., are desired to examine the petition of the inhabitants of Whatly, touching the placing of John Cayford.

13. Order made the 9th April, 1621, by Sir George Speake, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq.

Andrew Markes of South Petherton, groom, the reputed father, is to pay one shilling weekly from the birth of Hester, base child of Johane Gregge of the same place, for the education and bringing up of the child, to the overseers every Sunday afternoon in the porch of the church. And he shall be bound with two sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 32.]

14. Order made the 9th April, 1621, by Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq.

William Hobbes of Charlton Mackrell, miller, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly for the support of the child, and Agnes Moone, the mother, shall receive the money and keep the child; and for her offence shall be severely whipped till her body be bloody. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 31.]

15. Order made the 11th April, 1621, by Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., the justices dwelling in or near the division where the parish church of Lymmington doth lye.

Angell Smyth of Ilchester, the reputed father of the base child of Ellinor Pelly of Lymmington, shall pay forty shillings

to the overseers and churchwardens of the said parish in full recompense of such weekly payments as by the law the said Angell may be charged withal. And John Hedges, gent., John Ley, Thomas Lokier, and James Clegge, overseers and substantial inhabitants, do agree to this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 24.]

16. Order made the 6th of April, 1621, by John Symes and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

Whereas Thomas Langdon of Holcombe Rogus in Devon caused Mary Cole to be conveyed thence to Barrington, where her child was born, of which she accuseth Stephen Poole of Wellington, shoemaker, to be the father, who is now fled out of this country: We do order that the said Langdon shall forthwith give bond, with one other sufficient security, in forty pounds, to discharge the parish from any charges that may arise from the said child. And Pasche Stuckey, Gervys Betty, and the overseers of the poor of Barrington, with other substantial inhabitants, do agree to this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 19.]

17. Order made the 27th of March, 1621, by John Maye and Nathaniel Styll, esquires.

Thomas Jourdan of Eastbrente, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens of Winscombe at the end of morning prayer at the parish church, the money to be reserved as a stock for placing the child. Johan Stocke, the mother, shall keep the child, or else pay one shilling weekly, to be employed as the other money. Both parties to put in sufficient surety to perform this order. The mother, as soon as she shall be able to travel abroad, to be brought to the next market town and then stripped from the neck to the girdle and openly whipped, for an example of others to avoid the like offence. As the father is found guilty only on the confession of the mother, "we do forbear to order hym any farther than before he is ordered." [S.R., xxxvii, i, 5.]

18. Order made the 7th of April, 1621, by John Maye and Joseph Rattle, esquires.

Symon Taylor, the supposed father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens and collectors for the poor of Congresbury from the birth of the child. Elizabeth Baker, the mother, shall keep her child without having any relief, or on refusal pay one shilling weekly. Both parties shall become bound for the performance of this order.

Elizabeth Baker be whipped at the nearest market town from the girdle upwards, "and that we be certified of the execution."

We leave Symon Taylor to be proceeded against in regard of punishment in the ecclesiastical Court. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 4.]

19. Order made the 9th of April, 1621, by John Maye and Nathaniell Styll, esquires.

John Neades of Hutton, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly after the end of morning prayer, the money to be reserved for a stock for the placing of the child. Margaret Bagnall, the mother, shall keep her child, or, if she refuse, pay twelve pence weekly. Both parties to enter into bond for the performance of this order. The mother to be whipped through the nearest market town as soon as she shall be able to travel abroad. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 3.]

20. Order made the 8th of April, 1621, by Gawin Mallett and Edward Lancaster, esquires, at Milverton.

Nicholas Parris of Langford Budville, carpenter, the reputed father, shall, at his own proper costs and charges, maintain and bring up the child, and save harmless the now and hereafter parishioners of Milverton by giving a bond of 20*li*. to the churchwardens and overseers.

Francys Coram, the mother, shall be sent to the House of Correction at Taunton, there to remain for one whole year, and not to be delivered from thence but according to the Statute made in the seventh year of the King's Majesty. [7 and 8 Jac. I., c. 4. S.R., xxxvii, ii, 62.]

21. By virtue of a reference from the last Wells Sessions [No. 6] concerning the settling of William Busher, labourer, it was found on examination that he hath worked in divers places

in Somerset and Gloucestershire, so that it cannot be found where he was lawfully last settled, and being now impotent we make an order, with consent of the overseers of Marksbury, where he was born, and of Compton Dando, where he was married, and of Busher and his wife, and of her parents: Busher shall return to Marksbury, there to live and work or be relieved by the parish; Busher's wife to remain with her parents, and be relieved by the parishioners if she become chargeable or be enforced to return to her husband. "Which we commend to the consideration of the Justices as they in their wisdom shall think fit."

Francis Baber. James Bysse. [S.R., xxxvii, ii, 63.]

22. According to an order made at the last Wells Sessions [No. 19] we called before us the parishioners of North Cadbury and Shepton Mountague, as also William Gyles and James Morren, his late master, when we were earnestly entreated by the inhabitants of Shepton that, forasmuch as Sir Robert Gorges and others, the greatest payers within their parish, were not then in the county, and could not be made acquainted with the business, we would only set down the truth thereof and refer the judgment to the Justices; which in regard we thought their motion reasonable and the matter not unworthy your consideration, we assented unto as may appear by this which followeth. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 22, 23.]

Henry Barckley. Matth. Ewens.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON the 3rd, 4th, and 5th days of July, 19 James [1621], before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir John Windham, Sir Henry Hawley, knts., Thomas Southworth, John Symes, John Colles, John Stawell, Thomas Brereton, Francis Baber, Christopher Preston, James Bysse, Robert Cuffe, George Browne, Thomas Windham, Marmaduke Jennings, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

ORDERS, TAUNTON SESSIONS, 1621.

1. Sir Robert Phelippes to be Treasurer for the Hospitals for the wester division ; Sir Henry Barckley for the easter.

James Byse and Edward Lancaster to take the account of the last Treasurers.

2. On the information of the inhabitants of the burrowe and parish of Taunton Magdalen, that there are certain amerçiements estreated out from the Court of Sessions upon some of the inhabitants aforesaid for a decayed highway called "Eastreate," and that there is levied on the goods of Lewis Pope, gent., one of the inhabitants, 45*sh.* 8*d.*, and a like sum on those of Charles Wyther ; and likewise there is paid to Christopher Browne, gent., the Clerk of the Peace for the discharging of peace preces in the same business 28*sh.* ; and there is demanded a levy upon the general charge of the said burrowe and parish for hospital money, relief of maimed soldiers, sending of prisoners to the gaol, and for provision of powder in time of muster and training of soldiers, 3*li.* 5*sh.* 2*d.* And whereas there has been time out of mind an Auger hole, sluice, gutter, or channell at the higher end of High street at Poole wall for the conveying of water into the said street, and by means the said channell doth run under the ground for a good distance, for want of repairing the water cannot have his passage, and the charge for doing it will not be so little as 3*li.* 6*sh.* 8*d.*, (which) cannot be raised but by a general rate, and the total is 12*li.* 11*sh.* 2*d.* : Ordered that Andrew Hendley, esq., and Thomas Chicke, the now constables of the said Burrowe, shall pay and make a general rate upon all the inhabitants to raise the money ; and Jasper Chaplin and Walter Underwood are appointed surveyors and overseers for mending the sluice with the highway thereabouts. [S.R., xxxix, 34, petit. of C. Wyther.]

3. Whereas there have been great complaints heretofore made touching the repair of the King's Highway called East street, from the east gate of Taunton almost to the Hospital of St. Margaret's called the Spittle ; and that there are diverse

issues estreated out of the Court of Sessions, pretending that inhabitants of St. Mary Magdalen should wholly repair the street, and that the inhabitants of St. James parish should not be chargeable further than the dropping of their "Evyes" [eaves]; and the Court is informed that both parishes ought to join in an equal rate for the repairing of the street: Ordered that John Stawell, John Symes, George Browne and Thomas Brereton, esquires, or any two of them, be requested to hear and determine the matters in controversy, calling any persons whom it may concern to testify the truth either by circumstance or other testimony, at or before the 20th September next, to the end they may procure peace and quietness between the two parishes; of which order and proceeding they are desired to make certificate at the next Sessions, which shall be for one binding and to be performed without contradiction by both parties.

4. Upon the petition of William Macye that he let a spare house at Gregorystoke to Richard Buckland on condition that if the inhabitants should not allow of the same, then he should yield quiet possession; yet, although the parishioners altogether dislike and disallow it, he would not perform the condition; and when the said Macye on the 3rd July took quiet possession, the wife of the said Buckland violently brake open the door upon him and thrust him forth again: Referred to Sir Edward Hext, knt., and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., to settle a course between them if they can, or to bind Buckland over to the next Sessions if he refuse to perform their order. [S.R., xxxix, 4, 36.]

5. Christopher Smalland, in respect of his "maihme" great want and distress mentioned in his petition, shall have forty shillings out of the Hospital money for the wester division.

6. Clement-Doddrell of Shepton Mallett, in respect of the many grievous and dangerous wounds and mayhmes received in the Irish wars as appeareth by his petition, shall have forty shillings from the Treasurer of the maimed soldiers. [S.R., xxxix, 29.]

7. On the petition of John Merriot that where he standeth engaged in a bond to the overseers of Glaston(bury) for the

discharge of a base-born child, for which William Hull, the reputed father, did promise to pay a sum of money and to free the petitioner: Referred to Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, knts., and Thomas Southworth, esq., to examine the truth of the business, and to settle a course, if they can, whereby the said Merriot might be released of his bond. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 6.]

8. On a petition showing that where there hath been a county collection for the repairing of Heale bridge, some of the money has not yet been paid in, whereby the work is not finished, but likely to fall into decay again: Referred to John Symes, John Collis, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe and Edward Lancaster, esquires, or any four of them, to examine what money is not collected, or collected and not paid in; and also to call George Dynham, who was appointed overseer of the said work, to an account of what money he hath received and how he hath disbursed and employed the same, and farther to do therein as they shall think fit. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 12.]

9. On a petition of Amias Crosse of Sampford Arundell, that he had an apprentice put unto him from Bradford by the consent of the Justices of that "Lymitt," and that two years after the parishioners of Sampford Arundell put another apprentice on him, being an old man of eighty years; and on his refusal, as there were others of greater ability who had no apprentice, imposed on him a rate of twelve pence weekly: Ordered that the said Crosse shall be discharged of the second apprentice and also of the weekly payment. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 7.]

10. On complaint made of many abuses and disorders that are kept in the Inn and Alehouses at Evercreech, and of the unfitness of the people and place for that there are market towns on either side within two miles: Referred to Sir Henry Barkley and Robert Hopton, esq., to call the said parties before them with some of the chiefest inhabitants, and examine the said abuses and disorders; and if they see cause to suppress them from tippling any longer and to certify their proceedings therein at the next Sessions.

11. Upon hearing the difference between North Cheriton and Compton Pauncefoott, it is ordered that William Whyte, with his wife and children shall be forthwith sent from Cheriton to Compton, there to be received according to the former order made by Sir Henry Barkley and Sir James Kirton, until the parishioners show good cause to the contrary unto the said Sir Henry Barkley and Matthew Ewens, esq., who have full power and authority to sett a final order in the same.

12. Whereas at Bridgwater Sessions last there were Issues returned upon diverse jurors within the Hundred of Kingsbury, for not appearing in a jury upon a traverse then to be tried; and for that it now appeareth upon examination of the bayliffe of the Hundred, that they had no warning, whereby the Court conceiveth that the parties were wronged, and desireth they may be eased of their issues being returned forfeited, if it may be.

13. Whereas the inhabitants of Elme did appear to show cause why John Davyes should not be settled there, and the contrary parties not present: Referred to Sir John Horner, Thomas Southworth, Francis Baber, and James Bysse, esquires, to call all the parties before them and examine the said difference and at the next Sessions to certify their opinions that the Court may make a final order.

14. Whereas George Knight, the reputed father of the base child of Christable Hodge, who was bound to appear at the last Ivelchester Sessions did there forfeit his recognizance, and that it is now alleged that he is fled the country at the instigation of Hugh Curle, his master, who hath some of his goods remaining in his hands to discharge the sureties of the said Knight, whereby the child remaineth upon the charge of the parish of Weston [Zoyland]: Referred to Sir Nicholas Halswell to call Curle and the overseers of Weston and such other witnesses as can testify anything before him, to examine the truth thereof, and if he see cause, to bind Curle to the next Sessions or otherwise settle an order; and certify his proceedings at the next Sessions. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 44.]

15. Whereas William Hutchins of Henton St. George, farrier, was at the Ivelchester Sessions committed to the gaol for six months for abusing Mr. Richard Gove, parson of the parish ; now on the request of Mr. Gove that the punishment may be mitigated, it is ordered that if Hutchins will submit himself to the said Mr. Gove before John Pawlett, esq., and give security for his appearance at the next General Sessions, then he shall be discharged of his further imprisonment. [*S.R.*, xxxvii, i, 33, Articles of misdemeanour ; xxxix, 54, certif. of submission.]

16. On a petition by the inhabitants of the burrowe of Taunton that there have not been any butts within the parishes of St. James and Hillbishoppes these many years : Ordered that the said parishioners shall forthwith make and set up butts, and maintain them, or otherwise proceedings will be taken against the refusers. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 10.]

17. On a petition from the churchwardens of Trull, together with the overseers and "sydemen" and diverse other inhabitants to be allowed to erect two cottages for the use of the poor of the parish upon some waste ground of the lord of the manor, the Bishop of Winton, lord of the manor of Taunton Deane, who hath given his consent ; consent is given by this Court. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 13.]

18. Order made the 16th June, 1621, by Sir Edward Hext and Marmaduke Jennings, esq.

Thomas Wallis, junior, of High Ham, husbandman, shall pay six pence weekly from the birth of the child until it shall be twelve years of age to the churchwardens and overseers of High Ham, and shall be bound with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Susan Wallys, the mother, is to receive the weekly payment and keep the child ; "and for this her notorious offence to be severely whipped to put her in mind how she doth offend in the like hereafter. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 14.]

19. Order made the 8th May, 1621, by Sir Henry Hawley and John Stawell, esq.

James Poole of Norton Fitzwarren, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Norton, and shall be bound with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. Agnes Bristell, the mother, shall keep her child; and shall on Sunday next after Evening prayer, be whipped severely through the street of the said parish by the tythingman or by one appointed by him. [S.R., xxxix, 5.]

20. Order made the 28th June, 1621, by John Maye, and Nathaniell Still, esquires.

Thomas Androes of Winscombe, yeoman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Winscombe from the birth of the child until it can get his own living, the money to be reserved for a stock to be raised for placing the said child.

Joane Clarke, the mother, shall keep the child without any allowance, or pay twelve pence weekly from the time of refusal.

Both parties to put in sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

The mother is to be brought to the next market town, and there to be stripped from the neck to the girdle and openly whipped. The father is left to be ordered by the ecclesiastical laws. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 49.]

21. Order made at Watchett the 2nd June, 1621, by Sir John Wyndham and George Luttrell, esq.

Laurence Cridland of Stogumber, husbandman, the reputed father, "which we are induced to believe partly because the said Cridland failed in making his purgation in the Spiritual Court," shall pay fourteen pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Stogumber, to be employed for the relief of the child.

Elizabeth Phelpps, the mother, shall pay six pence, or in default foster, succour, and cherish her said child without any charge to the parish. Both parties to put in sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 48.]

22. Order made the 24th June, 1621, by Sir Robert Phellipps and John Merefeild, esq.

Robert Balch of Chesilborough, husbandman, the reputed father, in regard Joane Beard, the mother, of Lopen, is a very poor woman, shall from the birth of the child be at all charges for the sustaining and education of the child; and shall enter into bond with two sufficient sureties to the overseers and churchwardens of Chesilborough to keep them harmless, and to perform this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 46, 47.]

23. Order made at Dunster the 28th of June, 1621, by George Luttrell and Thomas Wyndham, esquires.

George Williams of Crocombe, tanner, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly for the relief of the child, and discharge of the said parish, until it shall be bound apprentice.

Joane Dawe, the mother, shall bring up her child or otherwise pay four pence weekly, as with the other payment, to the churchwardens and overseers, to whom they shall both give good security for the performance of this order. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 42.]

24. Order made at Milverton the 8th of June, 1621, by Gawyn Mallett and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

Christopher Gorton of Tolland, the reputed father, shall pay within ten days of this order to the mother of the child, Elizabeth Martin of Milverton, eight pence for each week since the birth of the child, for that he hath not paid nor given anything as yet. And shall at his own proper costs and charges keep the child, and give a bond of 40*li*. to the overseers and churchwardens of Milverton to keep them harmless.

Elizabeth Martyn shall be committed unto the House of Correction at Taunton for one whole year to be punished and set on work; and not to be delivered but according to the form of the Statute of 7 James. [S.R., xxxvii, i, 41.]

25. On an appeal by Andrew Markes against an order made on him and certified at the last Sessions [Ilchester, No. 13]; it is now ordered that William Backe of Merriott, being the reputed father of the child, shall pay eight pence weekly to the overseers of South Petherton. And whereas the said Andrew Markes hath been taken very suspiciously at other times with Joane

Gregg the mother, it is ordered that he pay four pence weekly for the relief and to make up some stock for the binding the child apprentice.

The said Joane Gregg to remain in the House of Correction until farther order be taken for her.

26. Whereas William Stowre cannot bring sufficient matter to ground an indictment against Henry Dabbinett for a supposed perjury in the Hundred Court of South Petherton: Sir George Speake and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., are desired to call the said parties before them, and after examination, to do as they shall think fit.

27. On a petition of the churchwardens and overseers of Marke that there are many poor people there which are already and more every day likely to be chargeable by reason that there are so many children which are very "idely" brought up, so that the richer sort are likely to be overburdened with poor people unless some speedy course be taken for prevention thereof; and that the churchwardens and overseers and divers substantial men of the parish have met together and appointed five masters to take as many children into their service whereof the masters were content, but two, Robert Graye and Thomas Clerke utterly deny to take any of the children: Ordered that Sir Edward Rodney and John Maye will be pleased to call all the parties before them, and after examination to take such course therein as they shall think fit according to law.

28. Edward Tynite and William Capell, esquires, are desired to call before them John Yermouth his wife and children, and Richard Evans and his wife, and examine the many differences between them, and determine the same, if they can; or if not, to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next Sessions.

29. Upon the petition of Christopher Browne, executor of his father John Browne, late keeper of his Majesty's Gaol of Ivelchester, with a note of some particular charges laid forth by the said John Browne about the repairing of the said gaol, which

amount to 32*li.* 6*sh.* 8*d.*: Ordered that the Treasurers of the Hospitals shall pay equally the sum of thirty-two pounds, "feefteen" [*sic*] pounds to be paid now, and the like sum to be paid at the next Wells Sessions. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 40, 78.]

Robert Phelipps.	Henry Hawley.	Christopher Preston.
Edward Hext.	John Stawell.	Rich. Davies.
Tho. Southworth.	John Symes.	James Bysse.
John Colles.	Tho. Brereton.	James Farewell.
	Tho. Windham.	Robert Cuffe.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGWATER 18th, 19th and 20th September, 19 James [1621], before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir John Horner, Sir Thomas Hughes, Sir Henry Hawley, Sir John Wyndham, knts., Thomas Southworth, John Symes, George Luttrell, Edward Popham, Hugh Pyne, Thomas Brereton, Thomas Windham, Robert Cuffe, Marmaduke Jennings, Christopher Preston, John Maye, James Bysse, John Merefeild, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. Sir Hugh Smyth is chosen Treasurer for the "Maihymed" soldiers for this year to come; and John Maye and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, to take the account of the last Treasurer.

2. Upon a full and open hearing of the cause in difference between Chewstoke and Elme: John Davies shall be settled at Chewstoke, for there he ought by law to be settled.

3. Thomas Harrys having presented a petition subscribed by the greater part of the parishioners of Aishcott; licence is granted that he may erect a cotttage on the waste of the said manor, though there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 62.]

4. Desired that the Right Reverend Father in God Arthur, Bishop of Bath and Wells will be pleased to examine the differences between John Churchiss, clerk, and Simon Steevens, clerk, and to order and determine the same. [*S.R.*, xxxix, 58.]

5. Upon hearing of the cause in difference between the parishioners of Compton Martyn and Eastharptry, it is ordered that John Cannard be sent to Compton there to remain until good cause be shown to the contrary.

6. When there have been diverse issues lost by the inhabitants of Williton Hundred for not repairing a bridge, which were estreated forth of this Court, and levied by the Sheriff upon Thomas Dawe only, whereas it was through the default of the whole Hundred: Ordered that the Constable of the Hundred shall forthwith make a rate whereby the said issues may be paid by the whole Hundred.

7. On the petition of Margery Sybley, a very poor woman, that she hath ever lived in the parish of Ilbrewers, and for the last seven years in a house allotted her by the parish, but of late is put out of it, whereby she is utterly destitute: Hugh Pyne and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, or one of them, are desired to call some of the inhabitants before them, and cause them to provide a convenient place for her to abide in, if they see cause. [S.R., xxxix, 73.]

8. Mr. Cuffe and Mr. Lancaster have certified that the Hundreds underwritten are behind in their payment of the county rate for the repair of Heale bridge; and it is ordered that the Constables of the said Hundreds shall forthwith levy the rate required. [S.R., xxxix, 72.]

	<i>sh.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>sh.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Crewkerne, H. ...	4	6	Norton Ferres ...	11	8
Coker and Barwick ...	0	10	Brewton ...	31	8
North Curry ...	1	8½	Wells forum ...	20	0
North Petherton ...	16	8	Horethorne ...	1	2
Bridgwater, B. }			Tintenhull ...	7	6
The widdowe Holcombe			Hareclief and Bedminster	60	0
of the same ...	0	2	Portbury ...	60	0
Williton and Freemanors	4	4	Hampton and Claverton	20	0
Glaston xii hides ...	10	0			
Stone with Evill ...	20	0			
Cannington, H. ...	13	0			
				<u>£14</u>	<u>3 2½</u>

9. Where there have been many orders and references heretofore concerning the settling of William White with his wife and children ; now upon full hearing of the cause, it is ordered that he shall be sent to Compton Pauncefoot, and North Cheriton absolutely discharged of them. [S.R., xxxix, 70.]

10. The Treasurer of the Hospitals of the east division shall pay twenty pounds to John Maye, esquire ; and he is to distribute it among the poor inhabitants of Berrowe, who suffered great loss by fire on the 24th November last.

11. William Walton, an infant, the son of William Walton, lately brought from Pointington to Catcott to be nursed, where it may become chargeable, is to be forthwith returned to Pointington, where it was born. [S.R., xxxix, 86.]

12. Whereas it is alleged that one Kingsbury, the wife of one Kingsbury, has been received into her mother's house at Chewton, while her husband lives elsewhere : Ordered that if she remain there her brother with her husband, or some other indifferent man, shall give security to the overseers to free the parish of any charge that may arise.

13. Order made the 21st July, 1621, by Sir Thomas Hughes and Thomas Southworth, esquire.

John Gover, the elder, husbandman, shall pay six pence weekly to the parish of St. Benedict's in Glaston for the support of his base child, whose mother is Elizabeth Pumfrye. [S.R., xxxix, 69.]

14. Order made the 9th April, 1621, by Sir Edward Rodney and John Maye, esq.

Crispian Leache of Wedmore, husbandman, shall pay six pence weekly to the overseers of Wedmore after the end of Morning prayer, the money to be reserved for a stock to apprentice the child.

Isabell Thorne, the mother, is to keep her child without receiving any allowance, or pay twelve pence weekly. Both

parties to give sufficient security for the performance of this order.

The said Isabell is to be whipt through the next market town that others may avoid the like offence. As the father is only found so by the confession of the mother, no farther order is made for him. [S.R., xxxix, 68.]

15. Order made the 25th August, 1621, by Sir Thomas Phelipps and George Speake, esq.

John Sacer [also Sawcer] of Ivelchester, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly to the overseers and churchwardens of the town of South Petherton for the relief and maintenance of the child; and shall enter into bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Dorothy Hutchins, the mother, shall keep and educate her child so far as she shall be able. [S.R., xxxix, 61.]

16. Order made the 25th August, 1621, by Sir Thomas Phelipps and George Speke, esq.

John Ellis *als.* Litchett, late of South Petherton, shoemaker, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers and churchwardens of the town of South Petherton; and shall become bound with sufficient sureties in twenty pounds for the performance of this order.

Mary Edmonds *als.* Palmer, the mother shall, by her own industry and labour, educate and maintain her child. [S.R., xxxix, 60.]

17. Order made the 25th August, 1621, by Sir Thomas Phelipps and George Speke, esq.

Lawrence Podger of Mydney [in Drayton parish] yeoman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers and churchwardens of the town of South Petherton; and shall become bound with sufficient sureties in twenty pounds for the performance of this order.

Alice Hollande, the mother, shall, by her own industry and labour, educate and maintain her child. [S.R., xxxix, 59.]

18. Order made the 6th June, 1621, by John Maye and Nathaniell Styll, esquires.

Nicholas Graye, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence to the churchwardens and overseers of Marke every Sunday after the end of Morning Prayer, which money is to be reserved for a stock for the placing of the said child.

Joan Brice, the mother, shall keep her child without receiving any relief, or in default pay twelve pence weekly. Both parties to give good security for the performance of this order.

Joan Brice is to be brought, as soon as she shall be able to travel, to the next market town, and there openly whipt. As the reputed father is only convicted on the confession of the mother "we do forbear further to order him." [S.R., xxxix, 56.]

19. Order made the 26th July, 1621, by John Maye, Nathaniell Styll, William Capell, and Joseph Rattle, esquires, assigned for the County.

Whereas Mary Smithes, upon the several examinations, has accused two men, Henry Larrance of Wrington, yeoman, and Timothy Tuckey of South Brent, husbandman, and the said Larrance is gone out of the country, and therefore not likely to be free of the matter, and the said Tuckey is preferred by the mother: They are both ordered to pay six pence weekly, to be reserved for a stock for placing out the child, and they are also with the mother to put in sufficient surety to the churchwardens of Weere for the performance of this order.

Mary Smithes, the mother, is to keep her child, and for her punishment to be openly whipped in the nearest market town as soon as she shall be able to travel. [S.R., xxxix, 55.]

20. The certificate of John Maye and Joseph Rattle, esquires, assigned at the last Wells Sessions [No. 13] to enquire into losses by fire at Berrowe.

On the evidence of William Frye, Thomas Warde, Hugh Gould, Richard Borough, Thomas Owen, and Hugh Sidnam it appeareth that Richard Rogers lost his dwelling-house with all belonging, which to replace will cost one hundred *li.*, also eight loads of barley worth ten *li.*, nine loads of wheat worth twenty marks, and five loads of hay worth five pounds, and household stuff worth twenty marks. He is a very poor man, who hath a small living worth ten pounds, lately bought out of the lord's

hands, and he standeth enabled to diverse persons for the purchase money, and hath a wife and three small children.

John Ceek, a very poor man with a wife and two small children, had his hired house burnt with all his household stuff therein to the value of ten pounds, and hath nothing left to relieve himself and his family.

William Nevell, a very poor man and old, had his hired house burned down with all his goods to the value of ten pounds or thereabouts.

The fire happened at Berrowe about St. Andrewes tide last.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th days of January, 19 James [1621-2] before Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Barkley, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, knts., Robert Wright, D.D., Gerard Wood, D.D., John Maye, John Stawell, Francis Baber, James Bysse, Hugh Pyne, Edward Tynte, William Caple, Richard Davys, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. John Maye and Richard Davies are appointed to answer the letters that may be received from the Lords of His Majesty's Council for the easter division; and Sir Henry Hawley and Edward Lancaster, esq., for the wester division.

2. John Symes and Christopher Preston, esquires, shall examine and assure the estreats and amerciaments of the County Court book for the last year in the time of Henry Headley, esq., his "shreifeweke."

3. On a petition of Robert Butt, with a certificate from Sir Henry Berckley, Matthew Ewens, esq., and the parishioners of North Cadbury, that he hath had great loss by reason of a fearful accident of fire last Candlemas: Ordered that the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the easter division do pay the said Butt five marks. [S.R., xli, ii, 10, 11, 12.]

4. On a petition of the inhabitants of West Lydford, John Harbyn, gent., is ordered to pay all such tything rates as he is taxed within the said parish unless he show good cause to the contrary at the next Sessions. [*S.R.*, xli, ii, 22.]

5. On the petition of Thomas Frye and John Smith of Lullington that they have these many years executed the office of tythingman there, for that the rest of the inhabitants do refuse to undergo the office: Sir John Horner and Robert Hopton, esq., are desired to call before them the said parishioners, and to certify their doings and opinions at the next Sessions. [*S.R.*, xli, ii, 29.]

6. On the appeal of Timothy Tuckey against a bastardy order [Bridgwater Sessions, 1621, No. 19]; the order is declared void, and Henry Laurence shall bear the whole charge.

7. Whereas of late time certain inhabitants of Whitstone Hundred have gone about to lay the office of tythingman upon many that are never chargeable therewith, but account themselves exempt: Ordered that those who have usually executed the office shall be only charged until they show cause to the contrary, and farther order be taken. [*S.R.*, xli, ii, 27.]

8. The treasurer of the maimed soldiers shall pay all arrears due unto Richard Gill, a maimed soldier, to William Drewse of North Bradley in Wilts, and shall continue to pay the pension to him as long as the said Gill shall be living.

Nich. Halswell, John Horner, John Stawell, Ric. Davies,
Edward Tynte, Hugh Pyne, Edward Lancaster.

9. Arthur Raymond, keeper of the Common Gaol of Ivelchester is to have also the keeping of the House of Correction there; and Richard Browne late keeper of the House is upon sight of this order to deliver over all the prisoners now in his custody, together with all documents relating to their committals. The treasurers of the Hospitals are to pay five pounds between them for repairs to the Gaol and House of Correction; and Mr. Thomas Gould of Northover and Mr. William Beaton of

Ivelchester are desired to see the bestowing and disbursing thereof. The ten pounds and five pounds due and to be paid at this Sessions towards the relief of the prisoners in both the Gaol and the House shall be paid, 8*li*, 10*sh*. to Richard Browne, and 6*li*. 10*sh*. to Arthur Raymod, by agreement and consent of both parties.

10. Margaret Prewet to be settled at Filton *als*. Whitchurch, there to remain until better cause appear to this Court in open Sessions; towards whose placing there Mr. Prewet hath promised forty shillings, which the Court expecteth he shall perform. [S.R., xli, ii, 21.]

11. Richard Carter is allowed twenty-five shillings to be paid quarterly by the treasurer of the maimed soldiers, in respect of his service, being once pressed into France and another time into Ireland in the late Queen's reign, and of his service lately in Bohemia where he sustained many wounds, bruises, and hurts.

Edw. Rodney, John Horner, Tho. Hughes, Edward Tynte, James Bysse, Fran. Baber, Jo. Maye, Ric. Davies.

12. William Hole, having presented a petition subscribed by the parishioners of Hornebloton, has leave to erect a house upon parcel of an acre of land there, for as he doth procure licence from Thomas Dampier, gent., lord of the fee of the said premises. [S.R., xli, ii, 55.]

13. On the petition of William Panter, Nathaniel Saunders, Clement Cogswell and Edmond Saunds [overseers of Kainsham], that eight years ago Thomas Carter and his wife died intestate, leaving six small children and forty pounds of goods; and that William Byde with others, overseers, then hired William Flatcher to go to London to take the administration of the goods, by virtue thereof Byde and Flatcher became possessed of the said goods; and whereas Byde is now dead and John his son is his executor: Referred to Francis Baber and William Capell, esquires, with the consent of the said Byde in open Court, to call all the parties before them, and to take such order concerning the goods as they shall think fit. [S.R., xli, ii, 50.]

14. Whereas the jury of the Hundred of Bempstone hath presented that Mark bridge within the parish of Mark is in decay, and ought to be repaired by the lords of East Brent, South Brent, Lympsham and Berrowe; but the Court was at this present Sessions informed that the repairing of the bridge doth not belong to any of the said lords: Desired that Sir Edward Rodney, John Maye and Nathaniell Styll, esquires, or any two of them, will examine by whom the bridge ought to be repaired, and certify the same at the next Sessions. [S.R., xli, ii, 48.]

15. The order made at the last Taunton Sessions [No. 9] concerning the complaint of Amlas Crosse against the parishioners of Samford Arundell to remain in force until good cause be shown to the contrary; and in the meantime the three next justices of peace thereunto adjoining, or any two of them, are desired to examine the said cause, and if they see cause to certify the Court. [S.R., xli, ii, 34.]

16. Upon a certificate from the inhabitants of Bruham that John Parrott of that place hath obtained licence from Charles Barkeley, esq., lord of the manor of North Bruham to set up a cottage upon the waste there, "it is at this Sessions given way unto by the Court" that the said Parrott may build, although there be not four acres of land laid thereunto. [S.R., xli, ii, 33.]

17. On an appeal by Edward Jane against an order of bastardy [see No. 19]; and proof now made of a combination to accuse Jane, and that Thomas Danyell of Creech is the reputed father; it is ordered that the former order be void, and that Danyell pay twelve pence weekly for the support of the child.

18. On an appeal by the parishioners of Compton Martyn against the settlement of John Cannard [Bridgwater Sess., 1621, No. 5], in that they were not privy to, nor present at, the making of the order, and that they had divers aged witnesses material in the cause, who were not able to travel far from home: Desired that John Maye, Francis Baber and William Capell, esquires, will call all parties with their witnesses before them, and after

examination certify at the next Sessions where of right he ought to be settled. [S.R., xli, ii, 15, 16.]

19. Order made 28th June, 1621, by Robert Cuffe and Thomas Brereton, esquires.

Edward Jane of Michell Creech, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly: and shall give sufficient security by obligation in twenty pounds for the performance thereof.

Mary Pyne, the mother of the child, shall be and continue in the House of Correction in Taunton for one whole year. [S.R., xli, ii, 13.]

20. Statement sent from Kentsford the 17th September, 1621, by George Luttrell and Thomas Windham.

Whereas Gilbert Thorne of Nettlecombe, tanner, was accused to be the father of the child of John Davies; but after an examination held at Watchet, on Saturday last, we found no evidence against him except her accusation, and it was very apparent that John Howe of Cannington was the father, both by his previous conduct, and also by his endeavour to get the girl to go firstly to Wales, and afterwards to Devonshire, which she refused, fearing some mischief was intended against her; we therefore desire that Thorne may be discharged from his attendance at the Quarter Sessions, and we will shortly convent him and Howe face to face, and make such an order therein as we shall think fit. [S.R., xli, ii, 7.]

21. Order made at Taunton the 21st Dec., 1621, by Sir Henry Hawley and Robert Cuffe, esq.

William Kellway of Gregorystoke, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers, to be reserved for this binding of the child to an apprentice, and shall give security in twenty pounds for the performance thereof.

Margaret Kinglake, the mother, shall keep and educate her child; or in default shall be committed to his Majesty's Bridewell in Taunton for one whole year. [S.R., xli, ii, 5.]

22. Order made the 22nd Dec., 1621, by John Symes, Thomas Brereton, and George Browne, esquires.

Richard Hinde of Hilbishoppes, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child, for the relief and education thereof; and shall give sufficient security for the discharge of the parish. Katherine Rolston, the mother, shall keep her child according to this order. [S.R., xli, ii, 4.]

23. Order made at Taunton the 8th October, 1621, by Sir Henry Hawley and Robert Cuffe, esq.

James Martyne of Durston, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from this date: and shall put in good and sufficient bond and security for the performance of this order.

Rachell Plenty, the mother, of Durston, shall keep and educate her child, or in default she shall be sent to the House of Correction at Taunton for one whole year.

24. Order made the 2nd Jan., 1621-2, by John Powlett and John Merefeild, esquires.

Henry Smith of Crewkerne, innholder, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child; and shall be bound with sufficient securities for the performance of this order.

Martha Abraham, the mother, shall, by her own industry and labour, educate and maintain her child so far as she shall be able.

25. Order made at Wachett the 5th December, 1621, by George Luttrell and Thomas Wyndham, esquires.

William Clatworthy of Cutcombe, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay fifteen pence weekly from the birth of the child to the churchwardens and overseers of Exford; and shall be bound with good security for the payment thereof.

Emmot Crange, the mother, shall bring up her child, or in default be committed to the House of Correction according to the Law. [S.R., xli, ii, 38, 39.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT IVELCHESTER 30th April, 1st and 2nd May, 20 James [1622] before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Henry Barckley, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, knts., Robert Hopton, Thomas Southworth, Edward Popham, Francis Baber, Hugh Pyne, Matthew Ewens, Christopher Preston, James Byse, Richard Davis, John Merefeild, James Farewell, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. As there is no cause now shown to the Court by the parishioners of Sampford Arundell, nor any certificate made by the Justices upon the reference in the cause of Amyas [Amice] Crosse: the former order made at last Taunton Sessions [1621, No. 9] shall in all points continue. [S.R., xli, ii, 93.]

2. Richard Warren now remaining in the hospital at Langport shall forthwith remove, or on complaint to Sir Edward Hext he shall be sent to the House of Correction. [S.R., xli, ii, 23; i, 86, 87.]

3. Elizabeth Barows has leave to erect a house on some part of the waste of the manor of Hornbloton, so that she obtained the consent of the lord of the manor, and the inhabitants there are to allow something towards the building of the same, without they can show sufficient cause to the contrary to Sir Henry Barkley, knt.

4. Whereas there have been many pains taken by some Justices and other Commissioners of Sewers touching the repairing and new-building of Borowe-bridge, which the inhabitants of divers parishes near did agree to perform with stone; and that it now appeareth that the bridge will be far more conveniently erected with timber, as it hath ever been heretofore, for with stone it is likely to prove very prejudicial to the country and the owners of land near unto; and whereas the Court doth consider that the bridge should be repaired by order of the Sessions rather than by the Commissioners of Sewers: Ordered, with the consent of the parishes of Weston, Middlezoy, Othery, Grinton, Morlinch,

Aishcott, Chedsay, and North Petherton, that a rate be forthwith levied to pay for the erecting, and that four overseers be appointed to receive and pay all monies laid out and to be spent, as Sir Edward Hext and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., shall think fit; and that the bridge be sufficiently finished for the passage of boats under the arches and carriages over the same by Bartholomew Day next. [S.R., xli, ii, 90.]

5. Although a certificate has been received from the justices desired to enquire into the settlement of John Cannard [Taunton, 1621-2, No. 18] that they consider East Harptree to be his proper settlement, in that his wife has an interest in a tenement there; yet, as it now appears that his wife has no right in the said tenement at all, the Court orders that Cannard and his wife shall be forthwith sent to Compton Martin as decreed in the former order. [Bridgwater, 1621, No. 5, S.R., xli, ii, 82.]

6. On a petition of the inhabitants of Shepton Mountague, ordered that Agnes, widow of one Hartrey, shall be sent back to Bruton to be then settled. [S.R., xli, ii, 88.]

7. Twenty shillings is to be paid to Thomas Evered, Christopher Smalland and Robert Popham, and ten shillings to Thomas Style, from the stock of the money of the maimed soldiers, for that they received many hurts in the wars of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth. [S.R., xli, ii, 85.]

Edward Hext, Henry Berkeley, Francis Heale, Tho. Southworth, Matthew Ewens, James Bysse, James Farewell.

8. John Maltravers of South Petherton, shall have nine pound yearly out of the benefit of the tenement of his brother Peter, a weak mazed man not able to govern himself, to maintain the said Peter, and the residue to Melia Peter's wife; and if any opposition be made therein, John is to complain to the next Justice to take such course as he shall think fit. [S.R., xli, ii, 63.]

9. John Maye and William Caple, esquires, are desired to enquire into the appeal of Henry Lawrence of Wrington, against a bastardy order made upon him at the Wells Sessions. [1621-2, No. 6, S.R., xli, i, 27.]

10. On the humble petition of the parishioners of Muchelney that they placed John Chappell, an impotent person there born, in the Almshouse of Langport, who departed thence, and served divers persons in Huish for seven years; ordered that he shall remain in Huish until good cause be shown to the contrary. [S.R., xlii, ii, 81; xli, i, 20.]

11. The overseers of Ilbrewers shall forthwith provide a house for Margery Sybley to live in until the next Sessions; when, if they do not show good cause to the contrary, they are to provide her a house that she may labour for her living as long as she shall be able. [S.R., xli, ii, 64.]

12. John Symes, John Colles, and Robert Cuffe, esquire, are desired to enquire into the truth of the petition presented by the most sufficientest men of Trull against the building of two cottages there for the poor, in that there are enough cottages there already, and that the site is unfitting; and to certify their doings and opinions therein at the next General Sessions, and in the mean time the cottages to be stayed. [Taunton, 1621, No. 17, S.R., xli, ii, 66.]

13. Order made the 30th March, 1622, by Sir Thomas Hughes and Tho. Southworth, esquires.

Christopher Stiverd, the reputed father, shall pay four pence weekly to the overseers of Walton; and shall be openly whipped in the said parish. Mary Huchleburge, the mother, shall bring up her child until it be seven years of age; and shall be openly whipped in the said parish. We reserve power to increase the weekly payment if Stiverd shall appear to be able to bear a better rate. [S.R., xli, i, 12.]

14. Order made at Wiveliscombe the 31st March, 1622, by Sir Henry Hawley, knt., and Edward Lancaster, esquire.

John Knight, the reputed father, of Hillfarrence, shall pay six pence to the overseers and churchwardens of Hillfarrence every Sunday after Divine Service, or if there be no service before three o'clock in the afternoon ; and shall be bound with sufficient sureties to that effect.

Isott Jorman, the mother, shall receive the said payment, and keep her child, or on refusal, to be sent to the House of Correction at Taunton for one whole year. [S.R., xli, i, 75, 76.]

15. William Cleye of Langport Westover shall be suppressed from keeping a tipping house any longer.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON, the 23rd, 24th and 25th days of July, 20 James [1622] before Sir Thomas Phelipps, Baronet, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Francis Heale, and Edward Popham, Thomas Southworth, John Symes, John Stawell, Thomas Brereton, Christopher Preston, James Byse, Robert Cuffe, George Browne, Edward Lancaster, Thomas Windham, Richard Davyes, esquires.

1. The inhabitants of all the tythings of Murlinch shall forthwith make an indifferent rate to levy the money required for Burrowebridge ; and any person refusing to make or pay the rate shall on complaint to Sir Edward Hext be bound over to the next Sessions to answer his contempt therein.

2. The difference between Wiveliscombe and Nettlecombe and St. Decuman's touching the placing of John Upton is referred to the two next Justices to take such cause therein as they think requisite, and to certify their opinions at the next Sessions. [S.R., xli, i, 19.]

3. Copy of order made concerning Petherton Park and Newton Placie. Whereas complaint is made unto us at this Sessions holden at Bridgwater 17th Sept., 1595, by the inhabitants of Newton Placy, that they being parcel of the tything of Exton are charged with taxations and impositions laid upon them

for his Majesty's service their whole living not above 600 acres of ground; and being informed that Petherton Park within the tything of Newton being 1100 acres of ground doth not contribute any portion of money towards the said surcharge: Ordered that henceforth in any tything rate laid out upon Newton Placie that the Park of Petherton shall be at one-half of all such charge.

George Siddenham, Edward Hext, John Colles, Alexander Popham, John Courte.

4. It is now again thought fit and ordered that John Wroth, esquire, occupier of Petherton Park, shall contribute in any tything rate for his Majesty's service according to the above order, and also to pay all such monies as are behind for three or four years or more.

5. Watch and Ward shall continue in every parish in this county; and the Justices of Peace in every limit shall order the same for the continuance thereof as they shall think fit in their discretions according to the greatness and quantity of every parish.

6. John Oldman shall remain in West Bagborwe in any house he can get for his money; and Thomas Milton shall give bond in xx*li*. to the churchwardens and overseers to save the parish harmless from any charge that may arise by reason of the said Oldman, for that Milton did give his word to that purpose when he received the said Oldman into his house; and on his refusal he shall be bound to the good behaviour until he give the security ordered.

7. The clothiers of the easter division are forthwith to meet together, and likewise those of the wester division, to make an indifferent rate for such monies as have been expended by Mr. Nathaniel Barnard and Samuel Westcombe in respect of their attendance on the Lords of the Privy Council touching the redress of the decay of clothing, according to an order agreed on at Somerton the 20th April last past by Marmaduke Jennings, esquire, High Sheriff and divers Justice of Peace, according to

the tenor of letters from the Council for that purpose. The rate so made to be speedily levied and paid over ; and those refusing to be bound over by the nearest Justices of the limit to answer their neglect therein. [S.R., xli, i, 37.]

8. Upon complaint that John Brooke is erecting a cottage upon Fleet-bridge in the borough of Taunton, to the annoyance of the inhabitants and decay of the bridge lately repaired : Ordered that Brooke and all others shall desist, and remove so much as is already built up ; and that Mr. Lewis Pope shall repay to Brooke forty shillings which he paid for the ground upon which to build the said cottage.

9. Whereas Richard Warren hath not obeyed the order made at the last Sessions [Ilchester, 1622, No. 2] to leave the hospital at Langport, and to go to Lyng when he ought to be settled : Ordered that Marmaduke Jennings, esquire, now High Sheriff and one of the feoffees of the said hospital, will forthwith put the said Warren with his wife and children forth of the said hospital and send them with a copy of this order to Lyng. [S.R., xli, i, 31.]

10. On the petition of the overseers of Pytminster, that about five years since the Hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane, were taxed for the support of the poor of Taunton St. James, and that this yearly payment is fifty-five shillings ; and that now Pytminster is much impoverished and overcharged with poor people so as it is like to pray the aid and help of other parishes : John Collis and George Browne, esquires, are desired to call before them the said parishioners, and after examination to certify whether they think it fit that the said parish should be relieved of the said tax or not. [S.R., xli, i, 41.]

11. Whereas heretofore divers issues were lost by the inhabitants of the Hundreds of Williton and Freemanors for not repairing Longe Acre bridge within the said hundred ; which issues were levied on Thomas Dawe of Huish Champflower, who was to be repaid by a general rate on the whole Hundred [Bridgwater, 1621, No. 6] ; and whereas there are four pounds

now remaining in the hands of the Constables of Carhampton Hundred of the money levied for the said bridge, with which it is thought fit that the issues levied on Dawe shall be satisfied : The examination and ordering of the premisses are referred to Sir John Windham and Thomas Windham, esquires, who are desired to take course therein for the relief of the said Dawe as they shall think meet.

12. The Treasurer of the maimed soldiers shall forthwith pay to William Matthew 40s^h., to Andrew Phelipps 20s^h., to John Avery 30s^h., to Thomas Everett 20s^h., to Robert Cooke 20s^h., for their present relief, until the Court shall further consider their petition at the next Taunton Sessions. [S.R., xli, i, 14.]

Edward Hext, Thomas Southworth, Edward Popham,
Francis Heale, John Symes, James Byse.

13. Upon complaint by the parishioners of St. James near Taunton that divers persons in the Hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane do refuse to pay the rate made for the relief of the poor in the said parish by an order in open Sessions [see 10 of this Session]: Ordered that all refusing to pay shall be bound to the good behaviour and to answer their contempt at the next Sessions; and farther John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires, who made the former rate, are desired to make a new rate if they see occasion. [S.R., xli, i, 22.]

14. On a petition by the inhabitants of Porlock that they have disbursed 48s^h. 4d. in relieving and transporting certain poor Irish who were landed on the sea beach at Porlock, and presently the master of the barque departed before he was known : referred to the Justices of that limit to enquire into the truth of the petition as also how much Minehead has lately laid out in the like case ; and at the next Sessions to make a certificate whereupon the Court will order the money to be repaid by the treasurers of the hospitals. [S.R., xli, i, 23.]

15. Order made the 8th July, 1622, by Nathaniel Styll and William Caple, esquires,

John Tucker of Mark, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the date of this order for the support of the child; and the said Tucker his executors administrators and assigns, shall pay seven pounds on the 1st April, 1629, for the use, better maintenance, and preferment of the said child.

Beaton Monday, the mother, shall keep the child herself without receiving any relief, if the churchwardens consider her able, or if she refuse pay twelve pence weekly. Both parents shall enter into bond with sufficient security for the performance of this order.

The mother is to be whipped in the next market town, and certificate to be made of the performance thereof. [*S.R.*, xli, i, 46.]

16. Order made the 8th July, 1622, by [Nathanael Still and Will. Capell, esquires.]

John Fudge, the reputed father, shall pay to the churchwardens and overseers of Wedmore eight pence every Sabbath day after morning prayer. Susan Bunn shall keep her child without receiving any relief if she be thought able, or on refusal pay twelve pence weekly. Both parents to give sufficient securities for the performance of this order. The mother to be openly whipped in the next market town, and certificate made of the performance thereof. [*S.R.*, xli, i, 47.]

17. Robert Cuffe and Thomas Windham, esquires, are desired to examine whether there hath been anciently a tithing man in the hamlet of Langridge in the parish of Brushford, or whether there ought to be one there for the better performance of his Majesty's service, and in that case to swear a sufficient man of that hamlet to do the office, to be continued henceforth by the inhabitation in their several towns. Also to enquire whether there be cause to have a petty constable in the parish, and if they find it convenient, to make choice of one sufficient man, and to give him his oath accordingly.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGWATER the 1st, 2nd and 3rd October, 20 James [1622] before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Nicholas Halswell, Sir Francis Heale, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Henry Hawley, Thomas Southworth, Edward Popham, James Bisse, Robert Cuffe, Edward Tynte, Richard Davys and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. Sir Henry Hawley chosen to be Treasurer of the maimed soldiers; and James Bysse and Edward Lancaster, esquires, to take the account of the last Treasurer.

2. All maulsters within this county shall be licensed in open Sessions, and all others shall be suppressed.

3. Whereas it is alleged that it will cost much money to repair the causeways leading to Bridgwater from Crane bridge and from Petherton Heathfield, and that they are much spoiled and decayed by means of extraordinary wayne carriages passing over them: Ordered that if any plough or ploughs shall go laden with any carriage upon the said causeways, the owner shall pay five shillings, to be and for repairing the same, or on refusal be bound over to the next Sessions. [S.R., xli, i, 77.]

4. The inhabitants of all the tythings and borough of Milverton shall contribute to the payment of conveying such prisoners to the gaol as have not sufficient of their own to pay the charges. [S.R., xli, i, 76.]

5. Mr. Lancaster having in person certified that he and Mr. Colles had examined the cause of Jane Upham, and found that she ought to be settled at St. Decuman's, the Court doth order her to be sent there and provided for.

6. On the petition of John Phillipps of Oathe in the parish of Aller that he hath lived there for four years without any disturbance, having given a bond for the discharge of the said parish, yet now the parishioners or tenants of the said manor of Aller do seek to put him out: Ordered that he is to remain

there with his wife and children, and if any refuse to obey, then upon complaint to any justice within this county, they shall be bound over to the next Sessions to answer this contempt. [S.R., xli, i, 72.]

7. Upon complaint of the parishioners of East and South Brent that, whereas they have at their great charge repaired the causeway called Abbots Causeway in the parish of Mark, the inhabitants near to with their carriages and carts do much spoil, so that it is like to become foundrous again in short time: the two next justices are desired to take such course with the said inhabitants that they do not pass over it with their carriages and carts any more.

8. Whereas it was agreed at the meeting at Somerton the 20th April last to allow the Clothiers' representations, Nathaniell Barnard and Samuel Whitcombe, five shillings each for every day they were absent, which amounts to eight pounds for the said Whitcombe and to seven pounds ten shillings for the said Barnard, of which sum they still stand unsatisfied: We do desire the constables of the Hundreds before the 20th November next, to demand payment of every weaving woollen loombes that every clothier doth keep or kept at the time of the agreement; the sums so collected to be paid to James Byss, esq., for the easter division, and to John Symes and Edward Lancaster, esquires, for the wester division. Any refusing to answer at the next Sessions for their contempt. [S.R., xli, i, 70.]

Ed. Hext, Nich. Halswell, Fran. Heale, Henry Hawley, Ed. Popham, Tho. Southworth, James Bysse, R. Cuffe, Ric. Davyes, Ed. Lancaster.

9. Certificate from Robert Cuffe and Thomas Windham, esquires, that they find that a petty constable will be most necessary and expedient for Brushford parish; and that they have elected and sworn in William Lyddon to the office for the year following. Dated at Wiveliscombe 2nd September, 1622. [S.R., xli, i, 66.]

10. Order made 30th September, 1622, by Nathanael Still and []. John Wookey, the reputed father, shall pay

eight pence to the churchwardens and overseers of Burneham every Sabbath day after morning prayer, from the birth of the child until he can earn his own living.

Sicely Lane, the mother, shall keep her child, without any relief from the parish, or any other maintenance from the reputed father ; or on refusal shall pay twelve pence weekly.

Both parties shall enter into bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

For punishment the mother shall be stripped and whipped in the most public place within the said parish. As the father is convicted only on the confession of the mother, he is left to the censure of the ecclesiastical laws. [*S.R.*, xli, i, 82.]

11. Order made the 30th September, 1622, by Sir Edward Hext and John Stawell, esq.

George Cribb, of Wytcombe, in the parish of Martock, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly until the child is twelve years of age, or until he take charge of the child himself ; and shall be bound with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

Joane Farneham, in that she hath had a bastard before and never punished for the same, shall be committed to the House of Correction forthwith, there to remain until the same Justices enlarge her ; and then to maintain her child, or pay six pence weekly. [*S.R.*, xli, i, 54.]

12. Order made the 19th September, 1622, by Sir Henry Barkley and Matthew Ewens, esq. John Kendoll, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly to the overseers of Castle Cary every Sabbath after evening prayer in the church porch ; and shall pay four shillings for the time since the birth of the child, to be laid out in clothes for the same. Both parents to give security to discharge the parish.

Mary Needles (Neederles), in that she hath had a bastard before and therefore seemeth to be more lewd, is committed to the House of Correction for one whole year, and to pay out of her labour four pence weekly for the relief of the said child. [*S.R.*, xli, i, 88.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th days of January 20 James [1622-3,] before Arthur Lake) Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Berkley, Sir Francis Hele, Sir Edward Rodney, and Sir Henry Hawley, knts., the Rev. Gerard Wood, D.D., John Pawlett, Robert Hopton, Thomas Southworth, Francis Baber, James Bisse, Thomas Wyndham, William Capell, James Farwell, Edward Tynte, Richard Davies, Edward Lancaster, and Richard Cole, esquires.

1. An order in accordance with the finding of the certificate given below, that the cottages to be built for the poor at Trull stand to their use, and that the parishioners of Trull and the inhabitants shall not hereafter be any more troubled for the same cottages.

Fran. Heale. Gerr. Wood. Tho. Southworth. Ed. Lancaster.

2. Certificate from the undersigned that though they could by no means conveniently carry out the wishes of the Court [Ilchester Sess., 1622, No. 12] by reason of the uncertainty of their meetings and divers other great occasions, yet they had taken an exact view, and examined the greater part and most sufficient men of the parish, and find that all the doubts, objections, and grievances do proceed more out of a wilful and froward disposition than any just cause of complaint; and that in their opinion it is a necessary work, there being a great number of poor people there, and the place very fitting. [S.R., xliii, ii, 17, 18.]

John Colles. Tho. Brereton. John Symes.

3. Whereas at the last Assizes a petition was presented by the inhabitants of Froome unto Sir Lawrence Tanfield, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, for some relief for the poor of the said town much impoverished by reason of the decay of clothing; and whereas the Chief Baron desired the Justices of the Peace to take the same into their "consideration": Ordered that the

Treasurer of the Hospitals of the easter division shall pay one pound quarterly to the Constable of the Hundred of Froome, to be by them paid over unto some sufficient inhabitants of the said town, and distributed according as need shall require. This payment to continue until it shall be otherwise ordered. [S.R., xliii, ii, 34.]

Henry Berkley. Henry Hawley. Francis Heale. Ed. Rodney. Tho. Southworth, et multi alii.

4. The assuring of the extreats of the County Court of Marmaduke Jennings, esq., late Sheriff, is referred unto Sir Edward Hext and John Stowell, esq.

5. All owners or occupiers of land in the parish of Witcombe near Bath shall be chargeable to the repair of the highways there, as well as the inhabitants and parishioners ; and upon complaint that any refuse, the Justices will take such course as by law they may.

Hen. Hawley. Tho. Southworth. Robt. Hopton. Fran. Heale. Fran. Baber. James Bysse.

6. Upon long discourse of the matter in controversy at this Sessions between the parishes of Nunney and Whatley touching the placing of Richard Hoddinott: Ordered that he shall be settled at Whatley, in that he was there apprenticed for seven years.

Fr. Heale. Robt. Hopton. Tho. Southworth. James Bysse.

7. Upon long debating of the controversy at this Sessions between the parishioners of Mark and the Lords of South Brent, Lympsham, East Brent, and Berrowe concerning the repairing of the ancient stone bridge called Mark bridge now in decay ; and being very ambiguous which party ought to repair the same : It is ordered in full court, in regard of present necessity, that Mark shall before the 24th June next repair the bridge in all defects ; and if they can show cause by any sufficient and lawful process at another Sessions that they ought not, and who ought to do it ;

then that party shall repay the money and also be charged with the same for ever.

Henry Hawley. Fran. Heale. Edw. Rodney. Tho. Southworth. Gerard Wood.

8. Whereas Robert Baker of Wellington was at the last General Sessions holden at Taunton licensed to keep a common tippling house for one year ; now for that the Court is informed that the Justices of that Division being then present were not any way acquainted with the grant of the licence, neither gave any consent thereto, the said Baker having been formerly suppressed, and therefore ought not by law to be licensed : This Court doth therefore order that the said Baker be forthwith suppressed, and that no one be licensed in his stead without the general consent of the Justices of that Division.

Edw. Rodney. Henry Hawley. Tho. Southworth. Edw. Tynte.

9. Whereas Thomas Harvie of Pensford is questioned for keeping a common "hostery" or stable there without warrant : Referred to Sir Francis Popham, Francis Baber and William Caple, esquires, whom the Court doth desire to take some pains and to do therein as they shall seem fit.

Henry Hawley. Fran. Heele. Edw. Rodney. Tho. Southworth.

10. Sir Edward Hext and John Stawell, esq., are desired by the Court to mediate the differences between Thomas Baker and Richard Baker his son concerning certain monies and reckonings, if they can ; or otherwise to do therein as to them shall seem fit.

Henry Hawley. Edw. Rodney. Henry Barkeley.

11. Whereas John Baker was apprenticed to John Ashman of Wells, linendraper, who has now given up his trading and departed to places unknown, and whereas by law no person may harbour any man's apprentice until he be first discharged : Ordered

that the said Baker be discharged, and be at liberty to place himself elsewhere. [S.R., xliii, ii, 15.]

Edw. Rodney. Jo. Powlett. Hen. Hawley. Edw. Tynte. Wm. Caple. Jas. Bisse. Tho. Windham. Ed. Lancaster.

12. Order made the 8th January, 1622-3, by Nathanael Still and William Caple, esquires.

John Wall of Weare, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly, from the birth of the child, to the overseers and churchwardens of Weare every Sabbath day after morning prayer.

Mary Evans, the mother, shall keep her own child, or otherwise pay twelve pence weekly for the support of the same. Both parties are to enter into bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

For a further punishment the said Mary Evans is to be publickly whipped in the nearest market town. The father is to be censured by the laws ecclesiastical of this land. [S.R., xliii, ii, 16.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT IVELCHESTER the 22nd, 23rd and 24th days of April, 21 James (1623) before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Henry Barkley, Sir John Horner, Thomas Southworth, John Symes, Hugh Pyne, Thomas Windham, James Bysse, James Farewell, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. William Cleye of Langport Westover, Roger Kewer of North Curry, and Francis Bastable to be suppressed from keeping tippling-houses any longer, in that it appeareth on oath that they suffered Thomas Rose of Curry Revell, and Veanes, the wife of John Andrewes of Wellington, to commit adultery in their houses, as well as many other misdemeanours proved against William Cleye, and his insolent behaviour in Court towards Mr. Pyne, saying that whatsoever he should say, the Clerk of the Peace and some other should swear to it to be true.

Farther they are to enter into recognizances with good sureties not to tipple any more.

2. Touching the differences between the parishes of Foscott and Inglescombe about the settling of William Smyth and his wife : A case is to be truly drawn between them and shown to the Judges of Assize for their opinion ; and in the meantime the parties to remain at Foscott.

3. The order made at the last Bridgwater Sessions [1622, No. 8] concerning the Clothiers' rate is confirmed ; and John Symes and Edward Lancaster, esquires, are desired to make forth their warrants to the Constables of the western division for the due execution of the said order.

4. Whereas Dame Elizabeth Berkley of Brewton is rated at fifty shillings for the composition money for the provision of His Majesty's Household : Ordered and decreed that this payment shall free her and her son Charles Berkley, esq., from all taxations and compositions as above, from Norwood Park in the same county, and for all her other lands in the eastern division ; until further order to the contrary be made at some General Sessions.

5. The appeal of John Sayer of Banwell against a taxation made upon him by the overseers of Worle for receiving Thomas Davies into the said parish by the consent of the Justices of that limit is dismissed ; and he is ordered to pay the money 39*s*. forthwith, unless any part be mitigated and underrated by John Maye and Nathaniell Still, esquires, unto whom the consideration is referred.

6. On a certificate from William Lottisham, esq., and Andrew Walton, gent., lords of the manor of Lottisham Green, that at the special request of the tenants there, they have granted licence to them to choose a place for erecting a cottage for Katharine Baker, widow, so that it be not above fifteen feet in breadth and thirty feet in length : Ordered that the cottage may be built although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xliii, ii, 40.]

7. On the humble petition of Roger Wood, John Tucker, Reyginold Woodall, and Giles Mitchell of Yevel, as also on the humble request of the Portreeve, Burgesses, Ministers, and other inhabitants of Yevel, that upon the 23rd December last past, the houses of the said petitioners were burnt to the ground with goods to the value of 200*li.*, whereby they are utterly undone: Ordered that the four petitioners shall have 20*li.* from the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the western division, to be divided among them according to the discretion of the next Justices of Peace. [S.R., xliii, i, 14.]

8. The order made at the last Sessions concerning the repairing of Mark bridge to stand until the next Sessions, when all parties concerned are to attend, and the Court will make a final order.

9. On the humble petition of Richard Hickes of Castle Cary, that on the 1st March last past, his house and goods were destroyed by fire, to his utter undoing, as also by a certificate from John Taunton, minister, Anthonie Abarrow, and other inhabitants of the said parish: Ordered that the petitioner do receive 10*li.* from the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the eastern division. [S.R., xliii, ii, 53.]

10. Whereas there hath been some difference between the inhabitants of Kingweston, Barton [St. David] and Kington [Mandeville] concerning their tithing rate, wherein the inhabitants of Kington conceive themselves much wronged: Sir Henry Berkley and James Farewell, esq., are desired to call all parties before them, and to take such order therein as the cause requireth.

11. Upon the petition of the inhabitants of Worle, that they are much overcharged towards the maimed soldiers, hospitals, and other charitable uses, and that they desire the Court to take some course towards their case by the adjacent parishes: Referred to Sir Edward Rodney and John May, esq., to examine and order the same as they shall think fit. [S.R., xliii, ii, 46.]

12. Upon the petition of John Patten of West Chinnock, showing that his covenant servant, Katherine Brown, has been

delivered of a base child in his house, and, the reputed father having fled, he is like to be charged with the said Brown and her child: Referred to Sir Edward Hext, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace and Quorum, to examine the matter and order the same. [S.R., xliii, ii, 38.]

13. Order made the 3rd April, 1623, by Ralph Barlow, D.D., Dean of Wells, and Gerald Wood, D.D., Archdeacon of Wells.

Richard Markes of Doultling, blacksmith, the reputed father, shall pay sixpence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Evercreech, to be paid every Sunday after morning prayer.

John Burbidge, the mother, shall keep her child without receiving any relief, unless in the case of extreme necessity; or, on her refusal, she shall pay sixpence weekly in like manner. Any monies received to remain in the hands of the overseers for a stock to place the child out. Both parties to enter into bond with good sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., xliii, ii, 56.]

14. Order made at Axbridge the 4th March, 1622-3, by Sir Edward Rodney and John May, esq.

John Crooker of Wedmore, husbandman, the reputed father, shall from the birth of the child pay sixpence weekly to the churchwardens and overseers of Wedmore every Sunday after the end of morning prayer, which payment is to be reserved for a stock for placing out the child.

Joane Shortt, the mother, to keep her child without receiving any allowance; or, on her refusal, to pay twelve pence weekly. Both parties to put in sufficient securities by bond or otherwise to the best liking of the overseers for the performance of this order.

The said mother to be whipped at the next market town on a market day, as an example to others to avoid the like offence.

As the offence of the father doth not appear but by the confession of the mother, he is left to be dealt with by the ecclesiastical laws. [S.R., xliii, ii, 44.]

15. Whereas there is diversity of opinion lately risen amongst the Justices of this County, touching the settling and removing

of people likely to be chargeable unto those parishes where they come to inhabit ; and for that the determining of this particular doth much import the good order and government of the County : It is now thought fit at this Sessions to desire Sir Robert Phelipps, knt., and Hugh Pyne, esq., to attend the Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Justice Hutton this next Term, and presenting unto them the state of the business, humbly to crave their opinion and resolution therein ; by which means may be concluded the present difference, and their direction may serve for a rule of our future proceedings.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON, the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th days of July, 21 James [1623], before Sir Edward Hext, Sir Henry Hawley, Thomas Southworth, John Stawell, John Maye, John Symes, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe, Marmaduke Jennings, George Browne and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. Upon the motion of the inhabitants of Long Sutton concerning the settling of William Neighbours with his wife and children ; and by a pass from the Mayor and Justices of Wells, it appears that he dwelt for one whole year at Somerton, which is the last settled place whither he ought by law to return : Ordered that they shall forthwith be sent to Somerton to remain until the inhabitants show good cause to the contrary in open and General Sessions, and in the presence of the inhabitants of Long Sutton. [S.R., xliii, i, 7.]

2. Upon certificate from Mr. May and Mr. Still concerning the taxation of John Sayer made at the last Ilchester Sessions [No. 5] : he is ordered to utterly and freely avoid Davis out of the parish of Worle before the 29th September next, or else pay the money ; and in default be bound over to answer his contempt. [S.R., xliii, i, 28.]

3. Whereas at the last Ivelchester Sessions Matthew Sulley of North Petherton was indicted for building a cottage there contrary to the Statute, when he was fined and ordered to pull it down; yet in contempt of all justice he continued still the same cottage: A warrant of the good behaviour be granted against him, and the Constable of the Hundred to see the said cottage pulled down. [S.R., xliii, i, 12.]

4. Whereas John Smith was of late remaining at Newton St. Lowe, having come as a mere stranger out of Derbyshire, as it should seem for some notorious misdemeanour, with a woman whom he challengeth for his wife, but cannot give any account where they were married; and for that he hath misbehaved himself in many respects: Ordered that he be sent to Burlow [*qu.* Barlow] in Derby to be left with the officers of that place. [S.R., xliii, ii, 73.]

5. For diverse reasons shown to this Court the tithing of Badialton parcel of the parish of Milverton is exempted from any payments to be required under an order made at Bridgewater, 1622. [No. 4.]

6. Upon a certificate from the Portreeve, burgesses and other inhabitants of the borough of Yevell, that there are many small cottages erected, contrary to the Statute, greatly increasing the number of poor people already being relieved out of the common stock, far surmounting the liability of the said inhabitants; and these strangers once settled do tear and spoil other men's hedges; and other cottages to be erected, to the public prejudice and annoyance of the inhabitants: Referred to Sir Robert Phillipps to take such course for the speedy redress of the said grievances as the law requireth; and in the meantime all erecting of cottages to surcease. [S.R., xliii, i, 2; xliv, 43, 45.]

7. Upon long debating and full hearing of the controversy between the inhabitants of Weare and Loxton concerning the placing of Katherine Councell, widow, an impotent and distracted person: Ordered that she be settled and provided for in Weare. [S.R., xliii, ii, 74, 75.]

8. Upon a petition of Richard Bowdridge of Taunton St. James, butcher, showing certain wrongs and injuries offered to him by Robert Ballafonte, and John Elliot, gent., being now County Clerk for this county concerning an attachment awarded by Elliot at the suit of the said Ballafonte: Referred to John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires, to examine and order the same, and to testify their opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xliii, ii, 71.]

9. Upon a petition from the inhabitants of West Munckton that a certain stone bridge called the farther Bathe Poole Bridge is now in great decay for want of reparations, and very dangerous; being a great thoroughfare way, the greatest in those parts, and must be repaired speedily; and for that it is unknown whether it should be repaired by the County or some particular parishes or private persons: Referred to Sir Henry Hawley and John Symes, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe and George Browne, esquires, or to any four of them, to take some speedy course for the levying of monies for the repairing of the said bridge, and to certify at the next Sessions what they have done in and about the said work. [S.R., xliii, i, 21.]

10. The difference between the parishes of Abbot's Leigh and Wraxall touching the settling of Robert Whatley is referred to John Poulet, John May, Richard Davies and Richard Cole, esquires, or to any three of them, whom this Court doth desire to take some pains in the examination, and to end it if they can; or otherwise to certify their opinions at the next Sessions.

11. Whereas Sir Edward Rodney and John May, esquires, have examined the complaint preferred by the parishioners of Worle [Ilchester, 1623, No. 11], and find that they had good cause for complaint concerning hospital money and others; and thereupon decreed, as Banwell doth contain about 4,000 acres of land, meadow and pasture, Worle 2,000 acres, and Kewstoke 2,000 acres, and the total yearly payment of all three parishes doth amount to 3*li*. 6*sh*. 1*d*.; that henceforth Banwell pay one-half, and Worle and Kewstoke pay the other half, provided that the grange and farm of Woodspring in Kewstoke, containing

300 acres at the least, and 200 acres now called outlandes, which hath not heretofore paid, but upon what grounds the Justices are ignorant of, do likewise bear equal rate ; and whereas no good cause has shown at this Sessions against this order : The Court doth order that this shall stand and the parties perform the same, unless they show good cause at the next Sessions. [S.R., xliii, i, 20.]

12. Whereas the petition of the parishioners of Beere Crocombe preferred at the last Ivelchester Sessions [*not entered*] concerning the settling of William Southfield was referred to John Symes, esquire, who could do nothing therein for that the parties did not prosecute their said order ; and the petitioners have again appeared at this Court with further evidence : Referred to Hugh Pyne and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, to hear and determine the matter if they can ; and the petitioners to give notice to all parties and parishes concerned of the meeting of the said Justices [S.R., xliii, i, 18.]

13. Upon the humble petition of the parishioners of Mudford concerning a difference between the parishes of Rympton, Poyntington and Mudford concerning the settling of Henry Hollwaie and his wife ; according to the said petition Sir Robert Phillippes and Sir Henry Berklie are desired to take some pains in examining and appeasing the said difference. [S.R., xliii, i, 19.]

14. Order made the 12th July, 1623, by Nathaniel Styll and William Caple, esquires.

William Tincknell of Wedmore, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child every Sabbath day after morning prayer, until he be able to earn his own living.

Hester Bunn, the mother, shall keep her child, or else pay twelve pence weekly. Both parties to enter into bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. The mother to be publicly whipped in the next market town. The father being convicted only by the confession of the mother, is left to be dealt with by the laws ecclesiastical. [S.R., xliii, i, 29.]

15. The difference between the parishes of Milverton and Wiveliscombe touching the placing of George Culverlenghe is referred to John Symes and Robert Cuffe, esquires, to examine and determine the same, and to certify their opinions at the next Sessions.

16. — Cole, esquire, is chosen Treasurer of the Hospitals for the easter division, and William Walrond for the west division. Sir Henry Hawley and John Maye, esquires, shall take the account of the last Treasurers.

17. Joane Slade coming with a pass from London to North Petherton is to be sent to Gravesende in Kent, from tithing to tything; for that she hath been absent sixteen years, and lived in or about London, and last settled at Gravesende one whole year and more, and thirty days allowed her to be there.

18. Whereas the Hundred of Brent doth pretend that they are exempted from their appearance or service at the Sessions by some charter granted to the Abbot of Glaston; who notwithstanding doing their service at the assizes, it was thought fit by the Court that they should likewise appear, and do their service at the General Sessions in regard they now are freed from any service of the Abbot of Glaston, and His Majesty's service neglected in the said Hundred: Thomas Southworth and Edward Tynet are desired to peruse such writings or charters as they pretend they have for their exemption, and at the next Sessions to certify their opinions, when the Court will consider what is fit to be done. [*S.R.*, xliii, i, 46.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGWATER the 30th September, the 1st and 2nd October, 21 James [1623], before Sir Thomas Phelipps, Baronet, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir Edward Hext, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, Thomas Southworth, Edward Rogers, Hugh Pyne, John Symes, William Francis, Robert Cuffe, Marmaduke Jennings, Thomas Windham, William Walrond, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. William Caple, esq., is elected Treasurer of the maimed soldiers for the year to come, and Sir Edward Rodney and Marmaduke Jennings, esq., to take the account of the last Treasurer.

2. Whereas the overseers of Sparkford were bound to this Sessions for refusing to provide for Agnes Clearcke, who hath long dwelt there, and they pretend that she hath a house of her own at North Cadbury, and so ought to live there, which the parishioners of that place deny, in that the house is let on lease to her son John Chamberline: It is now ordered that the said Agnes Clearcke be forthwith sent with this order to Sparkford, there to be received and provided for; and if the overseers refuse to perform this order, then they are to answer their contempt at the next Sessions. [S.R., xliii, i, 62.]

3. Upon information given that John Hilpe, born at Weston-super-Mare and there living till he had two children born, did eight years since remove to Worle, and there continue till St. James' Day, 1622, when he returned to Weston, and always paid the taxes imposed upon him; being now chargeable to either parish, and did of late hire a house in Weston, where the parishioners refused to retain him, and did also hire a house in Worle, and there he could not be received. And the parish of Weston hath taxed him in twelve pence weekly, and Mary Fortt, in whose house he liveth, is taxed at five shillings weekly towards the relief of the poor, which taxation is conceived to be for the avoiding of the said Hilpe from Weston: Sir Edward Rodney

and John May, esq., are desired to hear the said cause, and to take such order for the settling of the said Hilpe and mitigation of the said taxation as they shall think meet.

4. Upon full hearing of the cause concerning Langport Almshouse and Richard Warren, by order of Sir Laurence Tanfield, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, one of the Judges of Assize: The order made at the Taunton Sessions [1621, No. 9] shall stand, and the said Warren, with his wife and family, shall be forthwith sent to Linge, where the overseers are to provide them a house for their money if they are not of ability, or otherwise provide for them and set them on work.

5. Upon the petition of Sara Howlett, wife of Richard Howlet, Elizabeth and Briget Hughes, her daughters, setting forth diverse grievances and abuses done by Oliver Powell, a bayliffe, and desiring that examination may be made by Sir Edward Rodney and Thomas Southworth, esq., which the Court doth hold very convenient, and doth desire the said Justices to grant their warrant against the said Powell to appear before them, or to bind him over to the next Sessions if they think fit. [S.R., xliii, i, 53.]

6. Upon the petition of Christopher Haddon of Wellington that Francis [Frances] Hill, his apprentice, doth little or no service, but doth remain away and wander about the country, and being brought home doth run away again, and her mother, Francis Hill, doth affirm that if her daughter be sent to the House of Correction she will hang herself, and the said maid also saith that she will hang or drown herself rather than live with the said Haddon: Referred to William Francis and Edward Lancaster, esquires, who are desired to take some pains in the examination of the premises, and to certify their opinions at the next Sessions. [S.R., xliii, i, 51.]

7. Upon the humble petition of Mary, wife of William Wootton of Curland, that they with their family have lived one whole year and upwards at Curland without any charging the parish; yet now the parishioners, fearing that they will become

chargeable, the said Wootton having become impotent by reason of age and sickness, have put them forth of their house, and, in most unchristianlike manner, suffer them to dwell under a hedge: Ordered that the churchwardens and overseers shall receive them into the parish until they shall show good cause to the contrary at a General Quarter Sessions in the presence of the said Wootton or his wife. [S.R., xliii, i, 50.]

At Wells Sessions cause was shown that they ought not to dwell at Curland ideo hic ordo vacat.

8. On a certificate from Hugh Pyne and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires, it is ordered that William Southfield, with his wife and family, be settled at Chard and set on work according to the statute. [Taunton Sess. 1623, No. 12, S.R., xliii, i, 60.]

9. Order made by George Luttrell and Thomas Windham, esquires.

Whereas Alice Sellicke, at the time of the birth of her child, confessed to her mother only that Howell Morgan, being her mother's servant, was the father, "which we are scarce induced to believe yet forasmuch as the said Howell hath confessed that he hath only kissed her and utterly denieth the fact," he shall pay three pence weekly to the overseers of Hilne until the child be seven years of age.

Whereas this is the second offence of the said Alice, and her friends are of good ability, she shall bring up the child herself or otherwise be committed to the House of Correction according to law. [S.R., xliii, i, 63, 66.]

10. Certificate from John Powlett, Richard Davies, and Richard Cole, esquires, that in the cause of the settling of Robert Whatley [Taunton, 1623, No. 10], Sir Robert Gorges undertaking for Wraxall and George Norton, esq., for Leigh [Abbots Leigh] to stand to their order, by ancient evidences it appeareth that a water-mill, wherein the said Whatley late dwelt, is within the parish of Wraxall, and therefore he shall be relieved by that parish: Dated 19th Sept., 1623. [S.R., xliii, i, 77.]

11. Order made the 25th September, 1623, by Sir Edward Hext and John Stawell, esq.

Francis Alford of Laurence Lydyard, butcher, the reputed father, shall pay four pence weekly from the birth of the child to the churchwardens and overseers of Huish [*qu. Episcopi*], to be paid over to Johan Sawtell, the mother, who shall keep her child until the said Francis Alford shall take the child and keep it. And he shall be bound with good sureties in £20 to perform this order. And whereas the said Johan is of lewd life and dishonest conversation, having had formerly two bastards, she is to be severely whipped until her body be bloody. [*S.R.*, xliii, i, 79.]

12. Order made the 5th August, 1623, by Sir Edward Hext and John Stawell, esq.

Thomas Hatch of Hurcott in the parish of Somerton, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay six pence weekly from the birth of the child until it be fourteen years of age, or until he shall take the child himself. And he shall be bound with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. Johane Stuffey, the mother, shall be severely [whipped] through Somerton on a market day, and shall receive the said money and keep her child. [*S.R.*, xliii, i, 78.]

13. Order made the 16th July, 1623, by Sir Henry Hawley and Robert Cuffe, esq.

Abraham Coles of Wembdon, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay one shilling and four pence weekly for the relief of the said child, whose mother is Agnes, the now wife of Robert Hancocke, and then widow of Humphrey Coles of Wembdon. And he shall be bound with sufficient sureties, himself in the sum of twenty pounds, for the performance of this order. [*S.R.*, xliii, i, 80.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th days of January, 21 James [1623-4] before Arthur [Lake] Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Henry Berkeley, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, Richard Barlow, Dean of Wells, Gerard Word, D.D., Paul Godwyn, D.D., John Pawlett, Robert Hopton, John Maye, Francis Baber, Thomas Southworth, James Bisse, William Capell, Richard Davies, Edward Lancaster, and John Cole, esquires.

1. Whereas Thomasine Tarr, widow, lived at Winsford a long time but was lately delivered of a child at Brumpton Regis, where she died, but had given security to the overseers for saving the said parish harmless, yet notwithstanding the overseers sent the child to Winsford: Ordered that the child shall be returned back again to Brumpton Regis, unless good cause be shown to the contrary.

2. On a petition from the parishioners of Kingston Seymer that the most part of the lands there are held by out-dwellers, who either keep them in their own lands or let them to poor under-tenants who keep no plough nor do any work about the highways, whereby they are become very foundeours: Ordered that every out-dweller with forty acres shall find a plough to help in the reparations, and out-dwellers with less shall contribute proportionately; and Francis Baber, Edward Tynte, and William Caple, esquires, or any two of them are desired to take notice whether this order be performed. [S.R., xlv, 8.]

3. John Metford to take the office of a tithingman in Merriott or to be bound to the next Sessions, on the petition of John Michel.

4. On the petition of the churchwardens and overseers of Hutton that Agnes Longe of Banwell, widow, has forty pounds by the year at least, and yet denieth any relief to her poor daughter living at Hutton, very sickly, with five small children in great necessity: Ordered that the said Agnes shall allow them one shilling every week. [S.R., xlv, 9.]

5. Stephen Bartlett and Mary his wife to be sent to Dunweare in the parish of Bridgwater, where they were married and last dwelt by the space of one whole year, unless good cause be shown to the contrary by the inhabitants of Bridgwater, at an open General Sessions in the presence of some inhabitants of Shapwick; and John Pollard the younger, of Shapwick, shall forthwith pay to the overseers of Bridgwater by the consent of the said Stephen so much of his wife's portion as is now in the hands of the said Pollard.

6. The parishioners of Lottisham may erect a cottage for Katherine Baker in such place of the waste as the Lords of the Manor have already appointed.

7. All malsters are to be suppressed, and none to be licensed but by the Justices of their limits, and they to licence none but such as they will answer for.

8. Upon hearing of the cause in difference between the parishioners of Batcombe and Castle Cary, it is ordered that Francis Powell shall be sent to Batcombe to be provided for, as it appears that he was last settled there as a covenant servant for one whole year.

9. On the petition of William Wootton and Mary his wife, John May, Nathanaell Still and William Caple are desired to inquire in what parish they ought to be settled, and to order and determine the same if they can; and if not, to certify their opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., xlv, 31.]

10. On the petition of the inhabitants of the Hundred of Batheforum that a bridge at Freshford is much in decay for want of reparation and like to grow very prejudicial to His Majesty's liege people, and that it is not known certainly what persons or lands ought to be charged with the reparation: Sir John Horner, Sir Robert Hopton, James Bisse and William Caple, esquires, are desired to call before them the inhabitants of the said Hundred, or so many of them as they shall think fit, examine the premises,

and determine the same if they can ; or if not to certify their opinions at the next Sessions. [S.R., xlv, 30.]

11. Francis Baber and William Caple, esquires, are desired to examine the difference between William Heale of the one part and Robert Kinge and Walter Blynman of the other part, touching certain wages in difference, and determine the same if they can ; and if not to certify to the next Sessions that such course may be taken as in justice is requisite.

12. On the petition of the inhabitants of Witcombe that the parish is very poor, not containing above ten households able to do His Majesty's service, and the greater part of the revenues is in the hands of strangers, who neither supply any office belonging to His Majesty or Church, nor contribute to any charges incident to the same whereby the inhabitants are scarce ever free from one office or other: Ordered that all holders of lands or tenements there shall henceforth undergo and execute all offices whatsoever as have been anciently used in their said lands or tenements, either by themselves or sufficient deputies, as it shall by indifferent election happen to them ; further, all occupiers of a ploughland more or less shall provide ploughs, workmen, and other necessities proportionably for repairing the highways. Lastly, all issues forfeited by the parishioners for not repairing the highways shall be stayed until next Michaelmas Sessions upon the parishioners are to make affidavit of their reparations, or otherwise the said issues to be estreated. [S.R., xlv, 28.]

13. On information that Thomas Wyatt of Preston is become a very lewd and dangerous person not fitting to live at liberty for fear of doing hurt and injury to the King's subjects: For the preventing of such mischiefs the said Wyatt is to be forthwith conveyed with this order to the House of Correction for this county, there to be safely kept and set on work until further order be taken ; and the said parish is to allow him maintenance if his labour is not sufficient to relieve him. [S.R., xlv, 20, 25.]

14. Whereas John Edgell late of Swainesweeke, the reputed father of the child of Rebecca Davies, is fled away, and Agnes Davies, the mother of the said Rebecca, hath procured divers

warrants for his apprehension, but hath been hindered by indirect courses used by Humphry, brother of the said John, and by Henry Merefield his father-in-law, and whereas the said Humphry did offer in the Court six pounds ten shillings to the said Agnes for her charges in keeping the child and for discharge of his brother which she would not accept: It is desired that Nathanael Still, esq., will be pleased to call all the parties before him, and end the difference if he can, and to bind over all refusing to perform his order to the next Sessions. [S.R., xlv, 33.]

15. Upon long debating of the difference between the inhabitants of Bedminster and Brislington touching the settling of John Mearyweather: Ordered that he shall be settled at Bedminster.

16. On the petition of the inhabitants of the tithings of Rodstocke [Radstock], Babington and Holcombe, within the Hundred of Kilmersdon, that the said three tythings are very small and do contain only the fourth part of the said Hundred, yet though there are only two high constables the steward and bailiff do yearly appoint one of the said constables to be chosen out of one of the said tythings whereas it ought to be only once in four years: It is thought fit and ordered that the said two constables shall be chosen yearly indifferently out of the whole body of the Hundred, without limiting their election of one constable yearly out of the said three tythings. [S.R., xlv, 14.]

17. On the humble petition of the inhabitants of Henton Blewet, and upon long hearing of the difference expressed in the said petition: Ordered that Edward Howe with his wife and children be forthwith removed from Henton to Chewton. [Mendip, S.R., xlv, 17].

18. An order made by Sir Henry Hawley and Farwell, esq., by virtue of a reference made to them at the last Ivelchester Sessions touching the examination of the tything rate between Barton [St. David], Kinton [Mandeville], Kingweston [is] confirmed by this Court, and all persons as shall hereafter continue¹

¹ Something omitted, perhaps "to resist."

the said order are upon complaint to be bound to the next Sessions to answer their contempt therein.

19. On a certificate from Hugh Godsall and Thomas Lester, constables of the town of Taunton, that Thomas Turnor was bound apprentice to John Macie of Taunton, mercer, for eight years of which five years is served, and the said Macie is much decayed in his estate and the statute of Bankrupt sued out against him: Ordered that the said Turnor be discharged of his apprenticeship and be at liberty to serve elsewhere. [S.R., xliv, 15.]

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT IVELCHESTER on the 6th, 7th, and 8th April, 22 James [1624], before Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Berkeley, Paul Godwyn, D.D., James Bisse, Marmaduke Jennings, Robert Cuffe, Matthew Ewens, Thomas Windham, James Farwell, Thomas Southworth, Anthony Stocker, John Harbyn, and Edward Lancaster, esquires.

1. The five pounds now to be paid by the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the easter division to the Keeper of the House of Correction for this last quarter shall be paid to Mr. Richard Brown, now Keeper, and to Richard Hayes, late Keeper, to be equally divided between them.

Thomas Southworth, Henry Barkeley, James Bysse, Pa. Godwyn, Marmaduke Jennings, Edward Lancaster.

2. On further consideration of the settlement of John Merryweather [Wells 1623-4, No. 15], for that information was given to Mr. Justice Hutton at the last assizes that the said Merryweather in January, 1618, continued at Bedminster above a year, and then departed to Brislington and rented a house; whereupon the overseers on complaint obtained an order that he should avoid the same, who notwithstanding, did continue for two years and a half, whereupon Mr. Justice Hutton declared that he ought to be settled at Brislington; yet for that it appeared at Wells

that the said Merryweather came to Brislington about Alhallow-tide 1620, and at Ladyday was ordered to avoid the parish within twenty days, and on his refusal was again complained of at a Petty Sessions held at Pensford and by Sir Francis Popham, Francis Baber, and William Capell, esquires, and again ordered to depart for that it appeared he enforced himself into the parish ; and at Wells, upon a judicial hearing of a full bench, it being shown he was always interrupted by the overseers in his abode there, he was ordered to Bedminster, which order we do maintain having power as we take it according to the law upon hearing to settle business of this quality. [S.R., xlvii, 23.]

Tho. Southworth, James Bisse, Henry Barkeley, Pa. Godwyn,
Edward Lancaster.

3. On an appeal by John Macey against an order of the last Wells Sessions [No. 19], the order then made is suspended, and both parties are to attend at the next Sessions with their determination of the difference, it in the meantime Robert Cuffe and George Brown, esquires, who are entreated by the Court to take some pains herein, cannot mediate some good end between them.

4. It is ordered that no Churchales be hereafter used within this County.

5. A House of Correction shall be erected and built up at Shepton Mallet for the easter part of the county ; and the sum of one hundred and threescore pounds, with threescore more for the fitting and finishing of the said house and for passing the assurance of the same, be forthwith raised by a tything rate from all the hundreds of the easter division ; and the money so collected be forthwith delivered to Sir John Horner and Robert Hopton, esq., to be by them employed accordingly.

6. On information that Richard Tucker, the bailiff or under-bailiff of Froome Hundred, hath wrongfully taken and unjustly detaineth certain goods of Joane the wife of Edward Deare : Sir John Horner and Robert Hopton, esq., are desired to enquire whether the information is true, and either to end the grievance, or to certify the Court at the next Sessions.

7. Sir John Horner, Robert Hopton, and William Capell esquires, are desired to examine all the differences and controversies between Christopher Truckwell, Thomas Reeves, Margaret Barrett, Richard Cornish, and others, of the one part, and John Haysame, of the other side; and to order and determine them if they can, and if not, to certify at the next Sessions their opinions therein.

8. Certificate by the undersigned that they have examined the inhabitants of Bathforum Hundred, and find that the bridge at Freshford now in decay was built by the Abbot of Bath and the Prior of Henton [Charterhouse] with the benevolence of the whole County, two men being appointed by the said Abbot and Prior in "disgoysed" habit to collect and gather the charitable contributions of the whole county and all others who would contribute, by which means the bridge was built and hath continued firm until this present, the time that it was built being about one hundred years past; and therefore they think it fit that it should be repaired by the whole county. [Wells, 1623-4, No. 10. S.R., xlvii, 8, 9.]

At Froome the 2nd of April, 1624, John Horner and James Bisse.

9. Order made the 11th February, 1623-4, by Sir George Speke and William Walrond, esq.

Robert Smalecorne of Combe St. Nicholas, labourer, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers and churchwardens of Buckeland St. Mary; and shall be bound with sufficient sureties in twenty pounds for the performance of this order. Purtesey Stacy shall maintain and educate her child so far as she shall be able. [S.R., xlvii, 18.]

10. Whereas William Walrond, lord of the manor of Ilbrewers hath, at the earnest desire of divers inhabitants, given leave to Simon Exon, a poor aged man, to erect a cottage upon a parcel of the waste called Weechgreen, the Court is pleased to give way to the said Simon to erect a cottage for himself and Elizabeth, his wife, during their lives, although there be not four acres of land laid thereto. [S.R., xlvii, 22.]

11. Licence to Paul Hallett to erect a cottage upon the waste of the manor of Halsebere Plucknett, upon certificate from Richard Keylway, steward of the manor, that the inhabitants have given their consent. [S.R., xlvii, 11.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON the 29th and 30th June, and 1st July, 22 James [1624], before Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir John Horner; Thomas Southworth, John Symes, Thomas Brereton, Robert Cuffe, Marmaduke Jennings, William Walrond, Thomas Windham, Edward Lancaster and John Harbyn, esquires.

1. The humble petition of John Wynpene and Robert Wynpene, showing that the said John being bound unto Tobie Bigge in 13*½*l., for the payment of 6*½*l. 10*s*½., and arrested by the bailiffs for non-payment thereof, did compound with the said Bigge, yet he was detained by the said bailiffs until he had given them 20*s*½., and promised 20*s*½. more: all which grievance is referred to Sir John Horner and Robert Hopton, esq., or either of them, to examine and take such course as shall seem fit. [S.R., xlviii, 37.]

2. William Francis, esq., high sheriff, and John Stawell, esq., are desired to call before them the inhabitants of Bushopps Lidiard and Kingston and examine the difference concerning the settling of John Trott, born at Kingston; and if it shall appear that he ought to be placed in any other parish, then both the said parishes to contribute to the charge laid out by Kingston heretofore.

3. Upon full hearing of the cause in difference between the parishes of Taunton Magdalen and Hibuishopp [Bishops Hull] touching the placing of Andrew Strong with his wife and family; it is ordered that he be settled at Hilbuishopps where he was last settled by the space of two years.

4. All malsters within the County be suppressed, and all licences formerly granted for the making of malt be made frustrate and void ; and further, no licence shall be granted except in open Sessions and in the presence of one Justice at the least of the same division wherein the person to be licensed dwelleth.

5. Licence to Robert Backe of Abbots Ile, labourer, being a poor man born in the parish, on his humble petition to erect a cottage on the waste of the manor, without four acres of land, so as he hath obtained leave and licence of the lord of the manor, and the consent of the inhabitants. [S.R., xlviii, 35.]

6. Upon the humble petition of the overseers of Somerton that the town being already overburdened with poor people, Phillip Tilly, who is now in gaol at Ivelchester for debt, doth endeavour wholly to turn off upon the said town his five children, although he hath certain leases and goods of good value : Ordered that the overseers shall rate and tax the occupiers of the said Tyllies estate towards the relief of the said children. [S.R., xlviii, 30.]

7. John May and William Capell, esquires, are desired to call before them the overseers of Puxton and Robert Floyde of Wrington, taylor, and examine touching the abusing of Henry Harrison, apprentice to the said Floyde, and such monies as he hath received with him, and to order and determine the same if they can, or else to certify their opinions at the next General Sessions.

8. Upon full hearing and long debating of the matter in controversy between the parishioners of Timberscombe and Carhampton touching the settling of Philip Thorne, an impotent person, born at Timberscombe : Ordered that the said Philip be sent to Carhampton, for that it appeareth he was lawfully settled there for one whole year and more.

9. The Treasurer of the Hospitals for the easter division shall forthwith pay forty pounds to Sir John Horner for the settling

and establishing of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet. [S.R., xlviii, 14.]

Robert Philipps, Thomas Brereton, Thomas Southworth, Thomas Windham, Robert Cuffe, Edward Lancaster, John Symes, Marmaduke Jennings.

10. Upon hearing of the appeal of John Macey of Taunton against an order made at the Wells Sessions [1623-4, No. 19]; it is ordered that Thomas Turner, his apprentice, be absolutely discharged of his said apprenticeship. [S.R., xlviii, 24.]

John Horner, Thomas Southworth, Robert Cuffe, Edward Lancaster, Thomas Brereton.

11. Order made by John Symes, Robert Cuffe, and Thomas Brereton, esquires.

Henry Crooke of Stoake St. Mary, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child, and shall become bound with sufficient sureties unto the churchwardens of Stoake aforesaid for the performance of this order. Joane Templer, the mother, shall by herself keep and maintain her said child. [S.R., xlviii, 12.]

12. Order made the 28th June, 1624, by Nathaniell Still and William Capell, esquires.

Richard Barber of Berrowe, butcher, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence every Sabbath day after Morning Prayer to the churchwardens and overseers of Berrowe from the birth of the child until it be seven years of age.

Bridget Browne, the mother, shall keep her child without receiving any relief from the parish, or else pay eight pence weekly.

Both parties shall enter into bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order.

The mother is to be publickly whipped in the next market town till her body be bloudy. The father, as his guilt only appeareth by the confession of the mother, is left to be dealt with by the lawes ecclesiastical of this land. [S.R., xlviii, 33.]

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGWATER the 5th, 6th, and 7th days of October, 22 James [1624], before Sir Robert Phelippes, Sir Thomas Wroth, Sir Edward Rodney, and Thomas Southworth, Edward Rogers, Marmaduke Jennings, John Symes, Robert Cuffe, Thomas Windham, William Capell, Anthony Stocker, Richard Davies, George Browne, Edward Lancaster, and Richard Cole, esquires.

1. Mr. Amies Harvy of Chelton [Chilton-upon-Polden], chosen constable of Whitley Hundred, being found insufficient from inability of body, is discharged ; and another is to be chosen in his stead, who shall be brought before the next Justice adjoining to the said Hundred to take his oath of office.

2. Whereas the house in Ivelchester commonly called the new gaol was built at the great and general charge of this County, to remain for the use thereof : It is in respect thereof and for divers other causes now thought fit and ordered that the House of Correction, which is kept in part of the said house shall be divided from the residue, which is now used as a gaol ; and from henceforth every Sheriff shall make an acknowledgment that the same house properly belongs to this County, and shall pay the sum of ten shillings yearly to the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the west division as an acknowledgment for such rooms as are now employed for the gaol. And the charge of the dividing and parting of the rooms for the House of Correction from those used for the gaol shall be paid by the said Treasurer, who shall pay into the hands of Thomas Gould, gent., and William Beaton *6*li*. 13*sh*. 4*d*.* in part of the said charges, and the remainder at the next Sessions, when the said parties shall bring in a just account of the same charges in particular. And it is ordered that John Furnis is to keep the House of Correction, and to receive such allowance as hath heretofore been paid. [S.R., xlix, 39.]

Robert Phelippes, Thomas Wroth, John Symes, George Brown, Richard Cole, Gawen Mallett, Robert Cuffe.

3. Whereas the Court is informed that there are divers disorderly and unruly persons inhabiting in and about South Petherton that do not only disobey but resist all authority and execution of Justice, and that the said persons do daily increase their company and are like to take so great a head that unless there be some speedy course taken for the prevention of them, no officer there will be able to execute his office: It is ordered that a warrant of the good behaviour shall be awarded against all these unruly persons; and the Court doth desire Marmaduke Jennings, esq., to cause the said warrant to be forthwith executed by the constables and officers of the said town of South Petherton to prevent such farther mischief as may ensue. And if the said officers shall neglect or refuse the same, they are to be bound to the next Sessions to answer their contempt.

4. With regard to the difference between the inhabitants of Salcombe in Devon and Broomefeild concerning the settling of Tacie Binford, as it appears that she lately dwelt at Salcombe with her grandmother, one Bowyer, widow, now dead, for two or three years, and since then hath remained up and down the country: It is ordered that the said Tacye be returned to Salcombe to be provided for.

5. Whereas Stephen Dycke, tythingman of Winscombe, was by a *mittimus* appointed to convey William Vinsent of the same to Ivelchester gaol for want of sureties in a bastardy order, and then permitted the said Vinsent to escape, whereby the base child is likely to be chargeable to the said parish: John May, Nathanaell Still, and William Capell, esquires, or any two of them, are desired to call before them the churchwardens and overseers of Winscombe and the said Stephen, and, after examination, to charge the said Stephen with a weekly payment, to continue until the said William Vinsent be brought forth to give bond to discharge the said parish.

6. Andrew Phelippes of Ubly, in respect of his hurts and maymes sustained in the wars in Ireland in the time of his Present Majesty as well as in the time of the late Queen, as appeareth by his petition, is to receive 20*s*. from the Treasurer

of the Maymed Soldiers towards his present necessity. [*S.R.*, xlix, 6.]

7. Order made by Thomas Brereton and George Browne, esquires.

Thomas Towninge of West Hatch, baker, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers and churchwardens of North Curry, and shall be bound in 20*li.* with sureties to discharge the said parish. [*S.R.*, xlix, 31.]

8. It is now ordered by the Justices of Peace here present that there shall be three Houses of Correction in this County, at Shepton Mallett, Ivelchester, and Taunton, whereunto those several Hundreds and Liberties shall contribute :

Taunton : Taunton and Taunton Deane with the borough, Milverton, the four wester tythings, Huntspill and Puriton, Whitly, North Petherton, with borough of Bridgwater, Cannington, Andersfeild, Williton, and Freemanors, Carhampton, and part of Abdick and Bulstone as it hath usually heretofore been.

Ivelchester, if the House of Correction may conveniently be divided from the gaol : Pitney and Langport, with the island of Mochelney, Kingsbury East, Martocke, Creukerne, Houndsborough, Abdick and Bulstone (the other part not before rated), South Petherton, Tintenhull, with borough of Ivelchester and manor of Northovor, Barwick, Coker, Somerton, Stone, with borough of Yeovell, Catishash.

Shepton Mallett : Hartcliffe and Bedminster, Portbury, Keynsham, Bath forum, Hampton and Claverton, Chewe, Wells forum, Winterstoake, Bempstone, Brent with Wrington, Froome, Kilmersdon, Wellowe, Chewton, Whitstone, Horethorne, Breweton, Norton Ferris, the Twelve Hides of Glaston.

Further orders for the government of the said Houses shall be referred to the next Wells Sessions.

Thomas Southworth, Ro. Hopton, Geo. Brown, Rich. Cole, Edward Lancaster, Rice Davies.

9. Whereas Thomas Francombe hath been a petitioner to this Court for some relief for losses and disbursements sustained

and laid forth in the service of his Prince and country, as he allegeth: Ordered that he shall have three pounds from the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the wester division, and henceforth he is not to trouble any Sessions in this county concerning his said former suit.

10. Order made the 27th September, 1624, by John Symes and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

William Scose, late of Gregorystoake, husbandman, the reputed father, shall pay twelve pence weekly from the birth of the child to the churchwardens and overseers of Gregorystoake every Sabbath day immediately after evening prayer, and give bond with sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., xlix, 24.]

[Nothing is set down concerning Joane Darch, the mother.]

11. Licence to Phellipp Davie of Brompton Ralfe on his petition to build a cottage on the waste of the manor, he having obtained the consent of Arthur Mallet, esq., lord of the manor, and a certificate under the hands of the greatest part of the parishioners there. [S.R., xlix, 11.]

12. John Hurwood of Burnham is granted ten pounds, to be paid by the Treasurer of the Hospitals of the easter division in two equal parts, in consideration of his great losses by fire, almost to his utter undoing. [S.R., xlix, 8; 9, a note of his goods.]

13. Whereas this Court is informed that the western part of this County, and especially about the town of Taunton, are much pestered with great numbers of wandering and disorderly persons who do much annoy the country; and that by reason of age and unfitness of William Storie, now master of the House of Correction, the service is much neglected to the great prejudice of the country: Ordered that the said Storie be forthwith removed, and one Jacob Steyte, a man recommended by the Justices of that limit now present, be placed in his stead, and receive from the Treasurer of the "Westerne Lymitts" the sum formerly paid to Storie. And for further enlargement of

the said pension, that the said service may be the better discharged, the sum of thirty-five pounds yearly shall be levied out of the Hundreds contributing to the said House [as in No. 8], to be raised by a usual rate by warrant from the Justices of the several limits, and paid over to the said Treasurer, and by him paid to the Master of the House. [S.R., xlix, 7.]

Robert Phelipps, Thomas Wroth, Edward Rodney, Thomas Windham, Edward Lancaster, Tho. Southworth, Geo. Browne, Robert Cuffe, Rice Davis.

14. Whereas the overseers and churchwardens of East Quantoxhead do refuse to obey a warrant concerning the settling there of Jeane Colverwell, signed by Sir Nicholas Halswell and Robert Cuffe, esq., the 11th April last past: after due consideration it is resolved that the said Jeane be sent with this order to East Quantoxhead, and there left with the said churchwardens and overseers whom this County doth require to receive her. And as it is expedient that the bastard should follow the mother, it is further ordered that the said child be likewise conveyed with the mother. [S.R., xlix, 25.]

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th January, 22 James [1624-5], before the Right Rev. Arthur [Lake], Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir William Button, knt. and baronet, Sir Robert Phelipps, Sir John Horner, Sir Henry Barkley, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Hughes, Sir George Young, knts.; Ralph Barlow, Dean of Wells, Gerard Wood, D.D., Paul Godwyn, D.D., Thomas Southworth, Robert Hopton, John May, James Bisse, Francis Baber, James Farwell, Edward Tynte, William Capell, William Walrond, Richard Davies Marmaduke Jennings, Anthony Stocker, Edward Lancaster and Richard Cole, esquires.

1. Sir Edward Rodney is desired by the Court to examine the differences between William Dando and John Willcokes

and if he cannot determine the same, to certify his opinions at the next Sessions.

2. On the petition of John Walter of Batcombe, who hath a charge of a wife and six small children, and on the request of the lords of the manor and of the inhabitants thereof, licence is granted to him to erect a cottage there, though he hath not four acres laid thereto. [S.R., lii, 47.]

3. On the petition of Gyles Hillinge of Charlton Musgrove, who hath a charge of a wife and six small children, and on the request of the inhabitants of the said parish, licence is granted to him to erect a cottage upon the waste of the manor of Barrow Marsh, if he procure licence from the lord of the manor, though he be not able to lay four acres thereto. [S.R., lii, 32.]

4. Whereas John Ozen, by the consent of John May, esq., and John Cannon, gent., lords of the manor of Blagdon, hath built a cottage there, this Court doth license him to continue there during the full term of twenty-one years, fully to be complete and ended, though there be not four acres of land thereto, so that he procure the consent of the inhabitants of the said manor. [S.R., lii, 23.]

5. For that there hath been much difference, and at this present Sessions, Indictments depending for the repairing of Mark bridge, at which Sessions a writ of Certiorari has been brought by the officers of the lords of the manors of East Brent, South Brent, Lympsham, and Berrow, and allowed; and for that the bridge is much in decay to the great annoyance of the Country: It is thought fit, and consented to by all parties concerned, that the bridge shall be forthwith repaired by the equal costs and charges of the said lords and of the inhabitants of Mark; and the party found liable at the Trial for the repair of the said bridge shall repay to the other party all their contributions thereto. [S.R., lii, 9, petit. of Mark parish.]

6. On the petition of John Pukeringe of Felton, Innkeeper, it is ordered that William House of the same place, Tippler, shall

be suppressed from and at the end and expiration of the licence now granted to him for that purpose. [S.R., lii, 14.]

7. Order made the 30th June by John Symes and Thomas Brereton, esquires. George Kelson of Bristol, brewer, the reputed father, shall forthwith take away and maintain the base child himself at his own proper costs and charges, and also shall be bound with sufficient sureties to the churchwardens and overseers of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, where the said child was born, that it shall not become burdensome at any future time.

Ann Wells *als.* Webb, the mother, shall for her offence be openly whipped in the street of Taunton. [S.R., lii, 42.]

8. Ordered at this present Sessions that all the Justices of Peace of the eastern division within this County, or any six of them, shall meet at Shepton Mallet the first day of February next, there to consider of the ordering, contriving and finishing of the House of Correction there ; and that then all those that have received any monies towards the said House shall bring them in.

Geo. Younge, John Maye, Tho. Southworth, John Horner, Robert Hopton, Gerald Wood, William Walrond.

9. Ordered this day, the 11th January, 1624-5, that all the inhabitants and occupiers of lands within the Hundreds and Liberties under-named, shall contribute towards the erecting of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet, and any person refusing shall be bound over to the next Sessions to answer their contempt therein.

Horethorne, Norton Ferris, Brewton, Whitstone, Glaston Twelvehides, Wells forum and the City, Chewe, Chewton, Kilmersdon, Wellowe, Bath forum, Froome, Keynsham, Hartcliffe and Bedminster, Portbury, Bempstone, Brent with Wrington, Winterstoke, Hampton and Claverton, Mells and Leigh, Henton and Norton.

Tho. Southworth, Gerald Wood, John Horner, Robert Hopton, Geo. Young, William Walrond, Edward Tynte, Rich. Cole, Rice Davies, William Capell.

10. On the petition of Agnes Exden of Sutton in Wilts, that she, being the grandmother on the father's side of a base child, born at Stoke Lane in this County, hath brought it up to her great charge and hindrance, and that widow Serrill of Evill [Yeovil], being grandmother of the child on the mother's side, who is of good ability as it is reported, doth very unnaturally refuse to help to support the said child: Ordered that the said Serrill shall pay nine pence weekly towards the support of the child, or on her refusal she shall take the child herself, and then Agnes Exden shall pay nine pence weekly. And the woman who is to pay the nine pence shall give security to the other. [S.R., lii, 31.]

11. Whereas George Haule of Dundry did heretofore receive into his house at Stowey as an under-tenant, Thomas Fowler, for which the tenants of the manor did present the said Haule, who did promise to save the parish harmless from the said Fowler: Ordered that the said Fowler shall be settled at Stowey, and the said Haule shall perform his promise, in that by his means the said Fowler has been settled at Stowey for four years and cannot be removed by law.

12. Whereas it appeareth by presentment that Stanmore Bridge is greatly decayed and dangerous for travellers, and whereas it likewise appeareth by an ancient order under the hands of Sir Nicholas Halswell and Robert Cuffe, esq., and others, Commissioners of Sewers, that the said bridge ought to be repaired at the costs of the inhabitants of Aller, High Ham, Heywsh, Drayton, Curryrivell, Gregorystoake, North Curry, Taunton, Langport, and West Hatch: Ordered that the inhabitants of the said parishes shall repair or make new the said bridge before the 30th May next, and shall by that date collect and pay such sums of money as shall be proportionately rated and imposed upon them, or shall at the next Sessions show sufficient cause to the contrary.

13. Sir John Horner and Robert Hopton and James Byssse, esquires, are desired to call before them the inhabitants of the tythings of Bath Forum Hundred, and to examine the premisses

of the petition presented by some of the tythings, that they are over-rated and can get no relief, and to order the same if they can, or if not, to certify their opinions therein at the next Sessions. [S.R., lii, 10.]

14. Order made the 12th January, 1624-5, by Sir Henry Barkeley and James Farwell, esq.

Maurice Stevens *als.* Hooper, of Brewton, the reputed father, shall pay eight pence weekly from the birth of the child to the overseers and churchwardens of Brewton, which sum shall be paid every Sunday in the south porch of the parish church after Morning Prayer. Elizabeth Bugden of Brewton, the mother, shall keep the child herself, or otherwise pay six pence weekly towards the support of the said child.

Both parties shall give bonds with two sufficient sureties for the performance of this order. [S.R., lii, 26, 27.]

15. Whereas there was a reference to William Francis and John Stawell, esquires, concerning the settling of John Trott, an impotent man, who have certified that they found him to be last settled at Tolland, in respect he there served an apprenticeship of seven years; and now it appeareth that none of the inhabitants of Tolland were called or warned to be before the said Justices at the time of examination: The Court doth desire the said Mr. Francis and Mr. Stawell, Thomas Brereton and Gawen Mallet, esquires, or any two of them, to call the overseers and others of Tolland before them to hear what they can say or allege for themselves why the said Trott should not be there settled. [S.R., lii, 25.]

16. Whereas Edward Burt with his wife and child was quietly settled at Northover for one whole year, yet now is lately gone to West Lydford, intending there to inhabit: the Court doth conceive that by the law he ought to be removed to Northover, and there settled in regard of his former abode.

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The names of places are arranged under modern spelling according to the Post Office Directory.

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